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HIGH TIMES

August: 475

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Colossal Cup in Denver

Susan Sarandon Smokin' Superstar



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BC Bud Depot

AND REEFERMAN SEEDS



10 YEARS YOUNGER: Reeferman (Charles Scott, left) and BCBD's Matt Harvey each placed first overall at the High Times Cannabis Cup in 2004, in Amsterdam. Charles took home the Sativa crown with Love Potion #1 and Matt's winning Indica was BC God Bud.

CELEBRATE

10 YEARS

OF CHAMPIONSHIP BREEDING!





In 2014 Charles (2nd from right) and Matt (center) were back in Amsterdam at the 27th Annual Cannabis Cup. BC Bud Depot won an award with Night Nurse, a joint project and hybrid of Reeferman's Harmony.

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BC HASHPLANT X REEFERMAN HARMONY X FIRE OG KUSH MALE

BCBD

SEED LIST

(PRICES PER 12-SEED PACK)

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- The Purps - $90 ()()()
- Girl Scout Cookies Bx1 - $90 ()()
- Sweet God - $75 ()()
- Chem Fire - $75 ()()
- The Black - $75 ()
- BC Mango - $75 ()
- BC Blueberry - $75 ()
- The Big - $75 ()
- Shiatsu Kush - $75 ()
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- Texada Timewarp - $75 ()
- Animal Cookies - $90
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- Night Nurse - $90 (NEW WINNER!)
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- Outdoor Mix - $50

HIGH CBD

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- Harlequin Bx4 - $90

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- Skunk #1 x NL - $125♀
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HIGH TIMES AUGUST



"I decided to hand-water the plants, as opposed to using a drip-feed system, because it gives you more up-close and personal time with them and can help you better understand their feeding habits."

—Growing Big in Oregon page 80

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The star of *Dead Man Walking* and *Thelma & Louise* is also known for her commitment to social causes. The issue of cannabis legalization motivated Susan Sarandon to sit down with us to express her belief in its benefits. *By Dan Skye*

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Great Big Gardens

In his 25-year career with *High Times*, editor-in-chief Dan Skye has shot all sizes of grow ops from indoor closets to colossal outdoor crops. Check out the photo gallery online of the biggest gardens Skye has ever seen. It's titled "Dan Skye's Biggest Gardens."



Mammoth marijuana grow ops will inspire you.



AKM's love of nature fuels his work.

Glass Artist of the Month

AKM is a progressive glass artist based in Richmond, VA. His anatomically based, functional sculptures are among the most prized in the glass marketplace.

AKM took his first glassblowing classes at a hot shop in Glen Echo, MD in 1999. The following year, he was introduced to lampworking at Virginia Commonwealth University, studying under several teachers including Emilio Santini. He began making his first pipes in 2003; by 2005 was making his living solely from his glassblowing.

In 2014, AKM won the People's Choice award at the CHAMPS Glass Games; he finished second in the Master's event. In late 2014, at the 9th Annual Pipe Classic, his performance earned him both first place and the Artist Choice awards, something never before accomplished in the event's history. He duplicated the feat at the 2015 Champs Glass Games in Las Vegas, taking first place in the Masters division and the Peoples Choice award for the same event.

AKM's artistry, coupled with an aggressive approach on the torch, have come to define his unique style. He says, "My love of nature—and a fascination with anatomy—have been the catalyst for expanding my body of work."

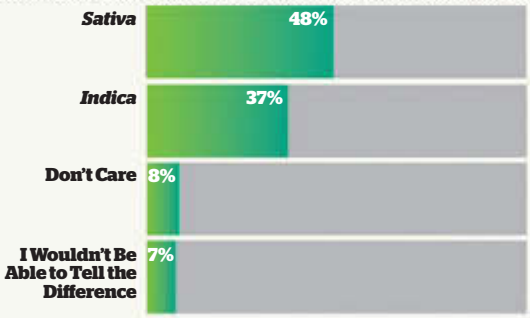
See AKM's work online at hightimes.com.

POT POLL

What's Your Preference?

Strains that are available to pot smokers seem to multiply daily. But would you rather your stash be *sativa*- or *indica*-dominant? Over 3,200 tokers responded with nearly half favoring *sativas*. But 15 percent of you either don't know the difference or don't care. We'll wager that these stoners reside in states without legal pot, where pickin's are usually slim!

Cast your vote in our latest poll online!



Free the Pot Prisoners!

Go to *hightimes.com* and sign the petition addressed to US Attorney General Loretta Lynch and the California Attorney General Kamala Harris asking them "to recommend the immediate release of these prisoners, and to provide sentencing guidelines that will no longer imprison Americans for victimless legal infractions involving the cannabis plant."



Welcome to Hempville

In our new online "High Art" column, artist Aimee Hilsenhoff created Hempville with seeds and stalks. It's a town for tiny stoners! "High Art" is a great showcase for your talents—and it's free! Submit your artwork with a brief biography and your inspiration.

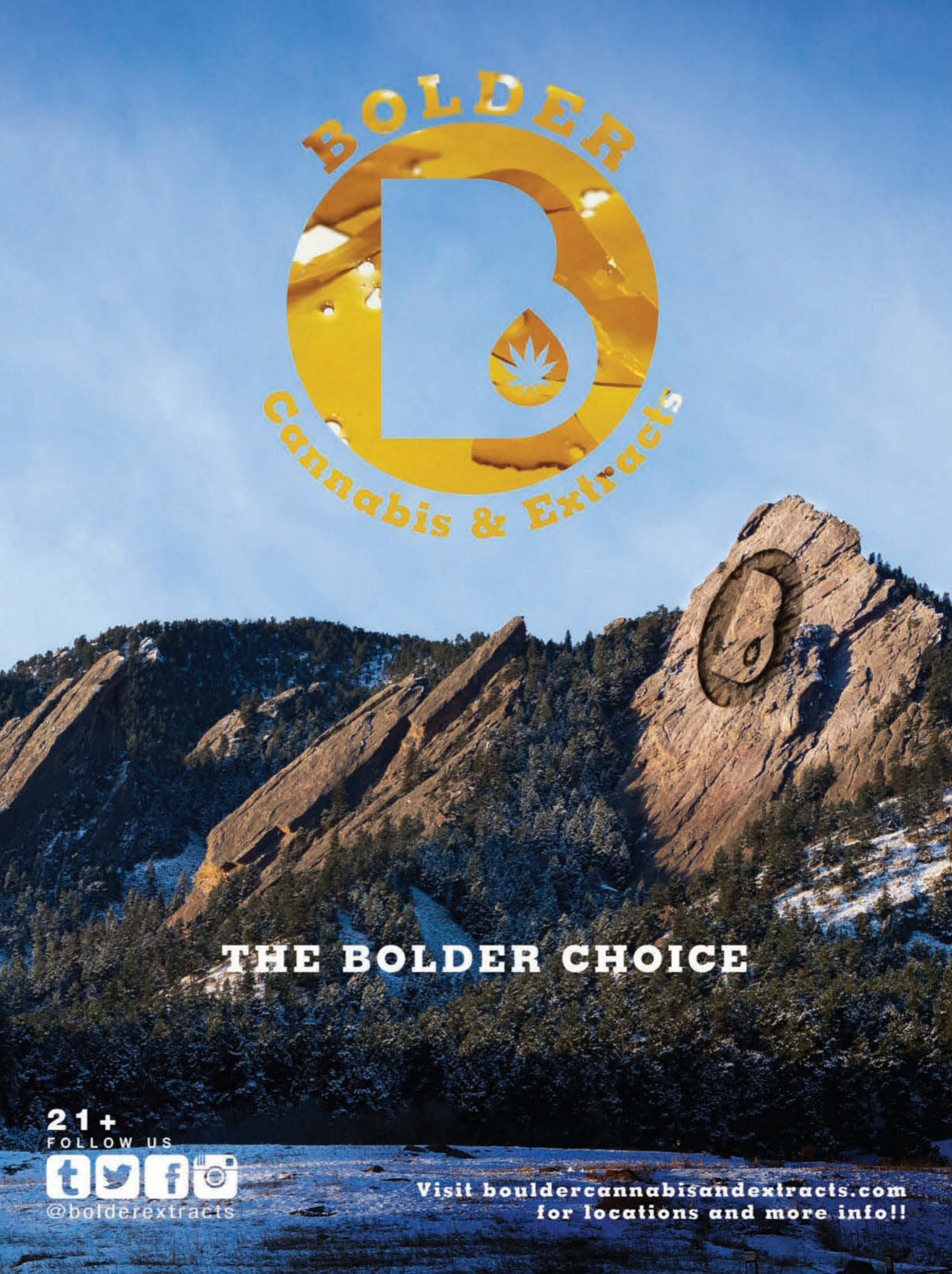
Send your submission to highart@hightimes.com. If we like it, we'll post it!



Miss August 2015

NAME: **Julie**
SCREEN NAME: **julie**
CITY: **Ann Arbor, MI**
OCCUPATION: **Assistant manager, ArborSide dispensary**
AGE: **24**

To enter or view contestants, go to ***misshightimes.com***. You must be 18 or older to enter.


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A Simple Plea

TRUTH BE TOLD, I was never a Barack Obama fan. I didn't vote for him in 2008, though I certainly didn't vote for McCain/Palin either. (I voted for Ralph Nader—again—which is a little like being a New York Jets fan: You never win. But I digress...)

Regardless of my political leanings, I have little doubt that our president is a good and decent man. Moreover, he's shown that he's capable of moral leadership.

Researchers reveal the medical miracles delivered by marijuana almost daily, but politicians and lawmakers have willfully ignored the facts and criminalized the sick instead. The battle for cannabis legalization has become far more than a fight for our rights as Americans; it's now a moral issue. The war that the government has waged on citizens to forcibly stop them from using cannabis has been tragic and costly: 15 million arrests, a soaring prison population, families destroyed, billions of tax dollars wasted. And all this despite the fact that the history of the United States—let alone the world—is interwoven with cannabis agriculture and cannabis medicine.

Right now, according to the Controlled Substances Act, cannabis is a Schedule I drug: one with a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical value. But as we all know, the evidence to the contrary is overwhelming and can no longer be dismissed out of hand.

In this issue, we explore the history of cannabis legalization and its future, as well as the impact that legal industrial hemp would have on the American economy.

We're also asking President Obama to heed his own moral compass and reschedule cannabis to allow medical and industrial use—or, better yet, unschedule it altogether.

Use your executive power now and free cannabis. Free us!

Dan Skye
Editor-in-Chief

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Dude Discrimination

Your various articles on working in the ever-changing marijuana industry couldn't be further from the truth of what's actually happening on the ground here.

The truth of the matter is that, since 2013, the average starting wage in Colorado has dropped nearly $4 per hour. Also, these owners hire at just *under* full time to avoid paying benefits; otherwise, that would come out of your pocket. And if you want to get a job on the retail side of things, good fucking luck if you're a dude. I managed two stores at the busiest mall in America and have almost 15 years of retail/management experience, not to mention 10-plus years of growing. But because I am *not* a woman or a "hot chick," I have a very tough uphill battle if I want to work retail. The response I get is "We don't believe you're qualified for this position"—meaning, "You don't have tits and ass and aren't hot."

Please get back to responsible articles about the industry—or at least do more research than simply calling the owners of these shops. Maybe you can get some opinions from the people who are actually working on the ground floor, not just the people running these legal drug cartels.

Chris
Colorado

Bitter much, Chris? Impugning an entire industry with a backhanded reference to "drug cartels" provides a window into your overall perspective. Here's a quote from *Surviving Hollywood: Your Ticket to Success* that is equally applicable to the cannabis industry: "It's a well-deserving business and talent will always win out over the bullshit."

High in Hotels

Marijuana is now legal in Colorado, Oregon, Alaska and Washington. When will the big low-budget chains like Motel 6 start appealing to this market? In states where pot is legal, they should put one of those folding cards on a table in each room. It could say, "Our policy on marijuana: If a guest chooses to smoke, please be courteous and wait 10 minutes before running the air conditioning, or 30 minutes before opening the windows. Be safe and remember to extinguish all products before leaving the room. Thank you, Motel 6."

Denver has had legal pot for 16 months, and still no hotel chain advertises itself as marijuana-friendly. I think a good story would be having one of *High Times*' ace reporters go around the Denver area for the next year getting hotels to end their "no acknowledgement" policy and put those folding cards in smoking rooms.

Adam
Denver

Our ace reporters are fighting each other for the assignment!



I'm a veteran of the US Air Force, the greatest air force in the world. I enjoy marijuana and its benefits, like so many others in this country.

Anti-Weed Walker

I live in the state of Wisconsin and love it! I'm a veteran of the US Air Force, the greatest air force in the world. I enjoy marijuana and its benefits, like so many others in this country. I am patriotic and proud. But I am also a criminal, according to the laws I'm forced to live under.

I write to Governor Scott Walker about once a month asking for marijuana to be decriminalized. Walker has very ill beliefs on marijuana. If he were elected president, I would bank on going back underground; all the hard work to legalize marijuana would be lost.

Dallas
Wisconsin

Ganja for Goats

A few weeks back, I called my BFF to see how she was doing. She was very upset and told me what had just happened. She lives in a rural area on a few acres and has a dog, some cats and two goats. Two stray dogs had gotten into the yard and attacked the goats. The smaller goat lay on the ground, gutted; it died later. Animal control responded and captured and removed the stray dogs.

The other goat's injuries were severe but not life-threatening. We managed to get her into the garage, where we could treat her wounds and clean her up. The goat was very traumatized. While I was petting her with my arm around her neck, I lit a joint and exhaled. She turned her head toward me and twitched her nose, following the trail of smoke and sniffing all the way.

Wow, she liked it! It seemed as if she knew it would help, so I shared my doob with her—not releasing the smoke in her face, just close enough that she could sniff it if she wanted to. And she did! In a few minutes, I could feel her tension release. She started making comforted sounds, almost like purring. Soon she was able to sleep. The vet came over in the morning and fixed her up.

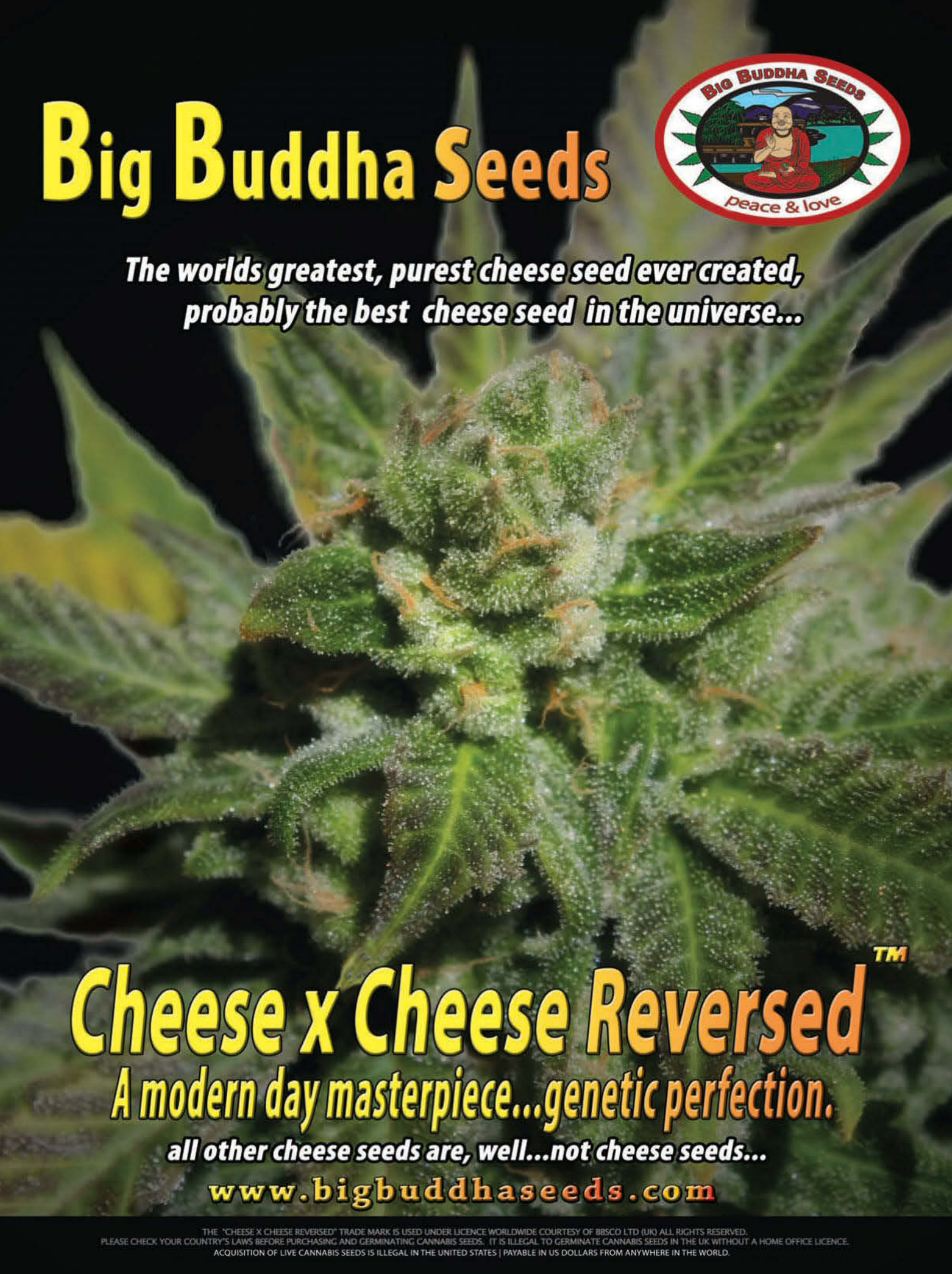
I'm happy to say that she has recovered from the attack, and my BFF was able to adopt a new little goat to keep her company. (Herd animals need friends.) I think this is another great example of how intelligent and intuitive animals are.

Susan Vintere

Pondering the "Gateway"

The process of seeking out and purchasing marijuana on the street is the real "gateway," in my opinion. Rendering something that is essentially harmless legally inaccessible creates a reason for people to make social connections with drug dealers. This can lead to the possibility of one of these dealers offering something more dangerous to the consumer, when that person never sought out anything more than weed. Look at it this way: If you wanted to buy a pound of coffee, but you had to do so from strangers who make their living by selling other illegal substances, coffee would be the new "gateway drug."

Neil Saldana O'Brien
California



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Contact High



HIGH TIME TO CELEBRATE The countdown to 4:20 on 4/20 was a reason for thousands to gather on the Cannabis Cup midway. At the MMJ America booth, a cannon fired T-shirts skyward as an emcee revved up the crowd. When the clock struck that magic time, a massive roar erupted from the stoner hordes. Read all about the Cup in "Mile-High Jubilee" on page 65. *Photo by Dan Skye*


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Contact High

FROM DUSK 'TIL BONG Watering your crops in the morning ensures that your massive greenhouse plants have everything they need to thrive throughout the day. Learn these and other large-scale cultivation tips in "Growing Big in Oregon" from grow book author Dru West on page 80. *Photo by Dabmaster Jay*



Contact High

COLORADO'S FINEST FLOWERS We love Denver's nuggets! Behold a mere sampling of the outstanding entries available to judges at our 2015 High Times Cannabis Cup over 4/20 weekend. Read more about this epic event starting on page 65. *Photos by Lochfoot*

POOTIE TANG
(Starbuds)



GHOST TRAIN HAZE
(Green Man Cannabis)



SWEET SILVER HAZE
(Rocky Mountain High)



BLACK FIRE
(Docs Apothecary in collaboration with the Ethos Collective)



LOUIS XIII
(Green Man Cannabis)



COLORADO BUBBA
(MMJ America Boulder)



KONG
(Allgreens)



STARKILLER
(Green Man Cannabis)



OG KB COOKIES
(MMJ America Downtown)



GHOST TRAIN HAZE #13
(Greenway Las Vegas)



VEGANIC STRAWBERRY COUGH
(Private Stock for Buds & Roses of LA)



GREEN CRACK
(Christopher Stine)



KOSHER KUSH
(Greenwolf LA with Kushco)



GRAND DADDY PURPS
(Herbal Healing)



DAVINCI OG
(Greenwolf LA with Ghost Crow)



CALI KUSH FARMS
EMPEROR COOKIE DOUGH
(Greenwolf LA)

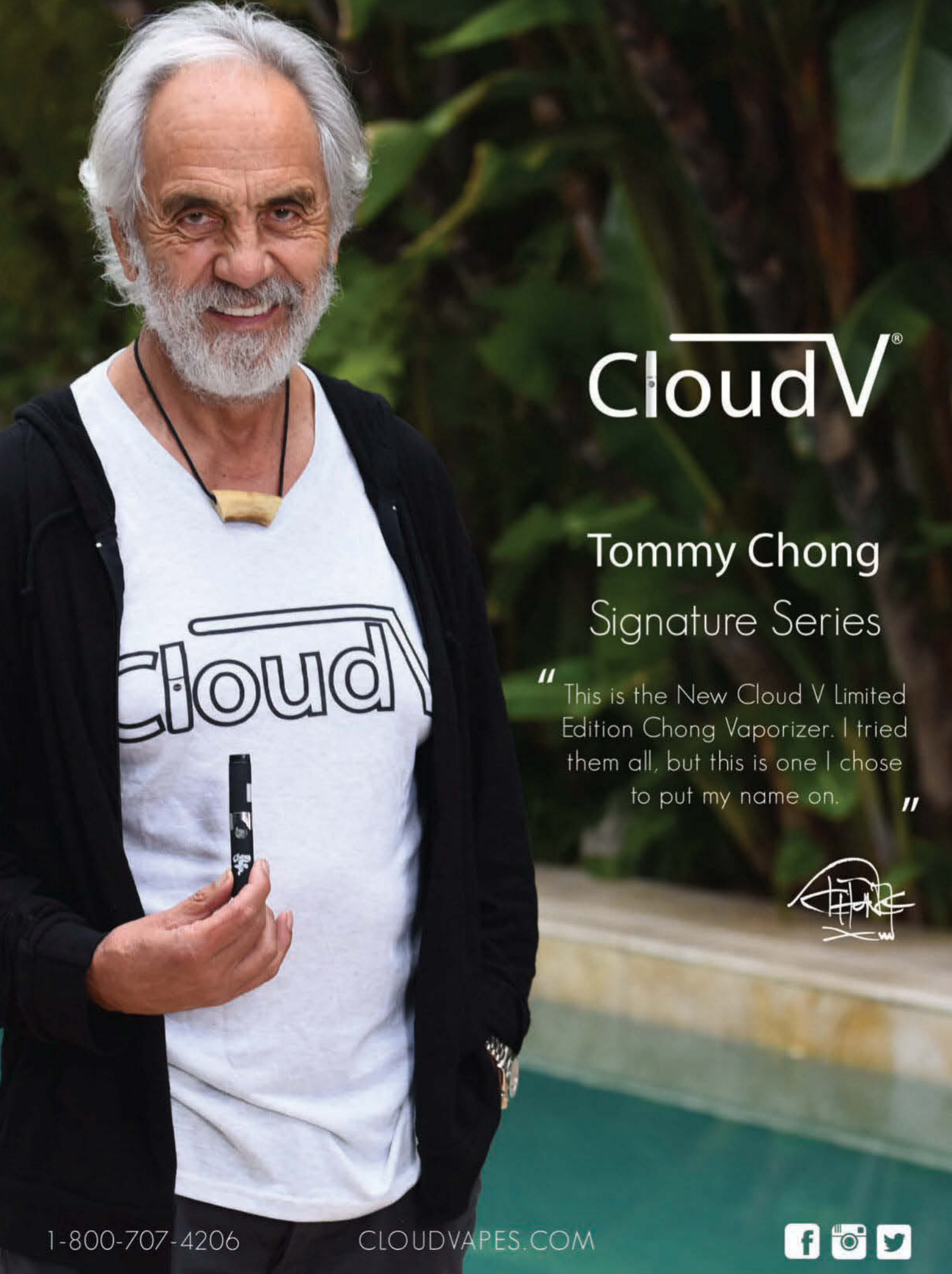


T.S.T. COOKIES
(Greenwolf and Top Shelf Terps)

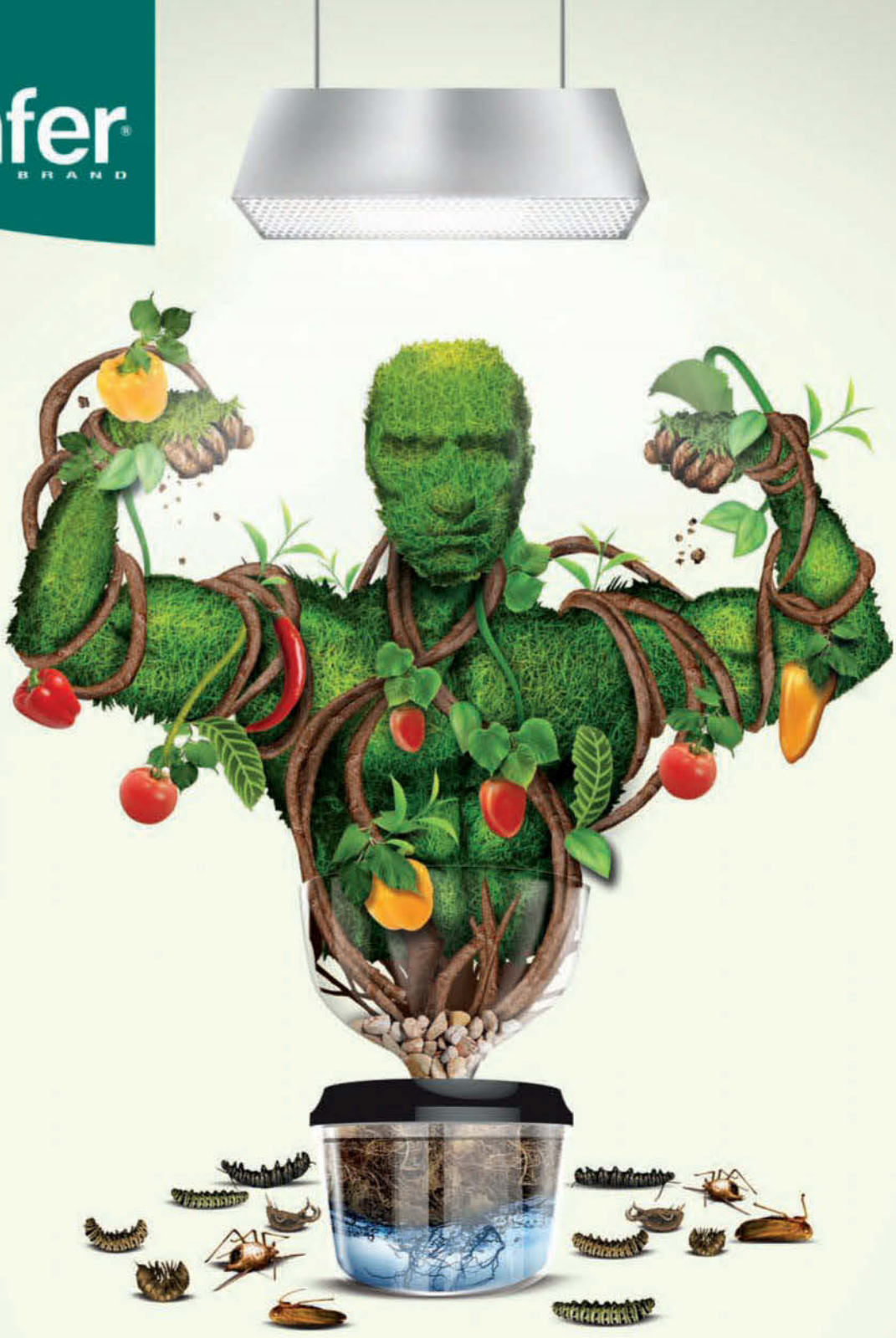


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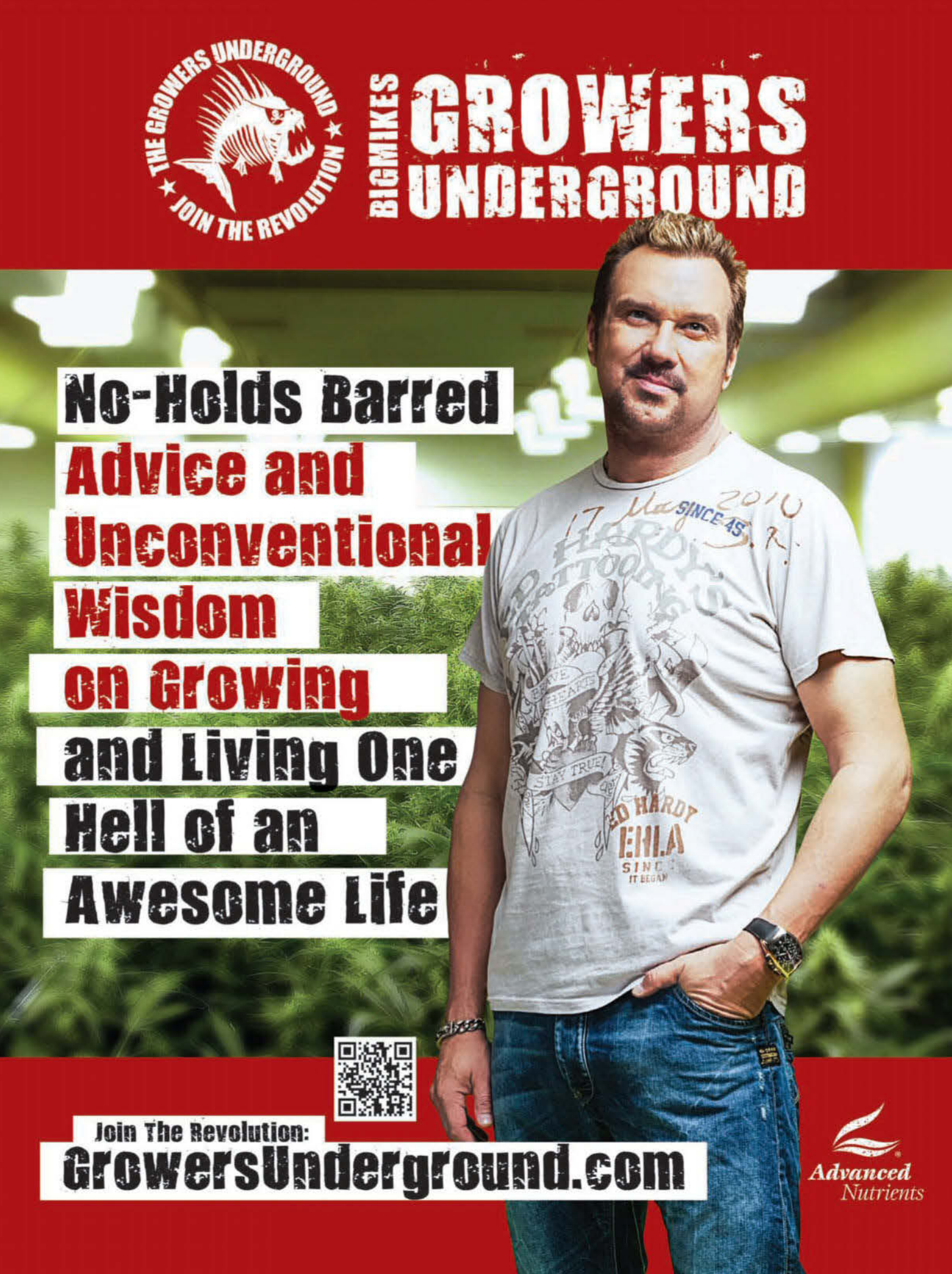
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Entertainment

Sabertooth Zombie

This Santa Rosa quintet goes H.A.M. p.34



Food

Crème Brûlée

A crisped sugar and custard delight. p.40





Pot won't make you brain-dead, but recent studies will.

Don't Believe the Hype!

Studies that claim pot use causes brain damage are fraught with problems, while those that find no such thing are ignored. *By Paul Armentano*

Marijuana damages the teenage brain. That was the message when Northwestern University researchers took to the airwaves in February claiming that pot is linked to "structural abnormalities" in the brain—or, as CBS News put it, "Marijuana may smoke your long-term memory." And they were hardly alone.

Allegations that weed "fries" the brain are nothing new. It was only a year ago that researchers from Harvard University and Northwestern teamed up to pronounce that even "casual" marijuana use adversely impacts the brains of young adults. (In reality, the participants in the study admitted to smoking some 11 joints per *week*.) Predictably, the lapdog media expressed little skepticism toward these claims—but they should have. Upon closer examination, it becomes clear that methodological flaws plagued both studies.

For instance, the sample sizes in both were exceptionally small. The 2014 Harvard study included only 20 self-professed pot smokers and 20 control subjects. The 2015 Northwestern study had 25 cannabis-using subjects—15 of whom were also schizophrenic—and 44 controls. But these small samples are the least of the studies' problems.

A far greater limitation is the fact that the researchers relied on a single set of brain-imaging data to ground their overall findings. In both studies, they reviewed a single MRI image from each participant and evaluated the images for similarities and differences. Any differences between the two groups—marijuana users and controls—were then attributed to pot use.

But these types of studies are extremely limited in the information they provide. Since the study design is not longitudinal (meaning subjects are not tracked and examined on multiple occasions over extended periods), the data identify only possible correlations and don't provide researchers with any information regarding actual cause-and-effect. In short, even if differences in the brain scans of users and non-users are discovered, researchers have no way of concluding whether these differences existed prior to the subjects' cannabis use, whether they persist when cannabis use ceases, or whether subjects with certain brain morphologies are

simply more likely to use pot.

Even more problematic is the fact that both studies failed to assess whether any of the differences in the brain scans were positively associated with any measurable changes in the participants' day-to-day cognitive performance, psychomotor functions or quality of life. The chances are they were *not*: In fact, the Harvard researchers acknowledged that the pot-smokers they studied were all enrolled in college, and that weed did not interfere with their academic work, jobs or other activities.

In other words, despite some apparent differences in brain morphology, it is likely that these cannabis users function in their daily lives in a manner indistinguishable from the control group. Further bolstering this likelihood is the fact that human beings have extensively used cannabis for thousands of years, thus providing society with ample empirical evidence as to the plant's relative and actual safety. If pot use posed significant risks to brain functioning, one would presume that the real-world effects would have become obvious long ago.

Finally, the researchers in both studies may not have properly controlled for other variables. In the case of the much-publicized Harvard study, we now know this to be the case. Writing in January in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, investigators from the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Louisville in Kentucky summarized their attempts to replicate the findings published by Harvard in 2014. They couldn't. The researchers reported "no statistically significant differences … between daily users and nonusers on volume or shape in the [brain] regions of interest." (The team paid particular attention to the nucleus accumbens, amygdala, hippocampus and cerebellum.)

"When carefully controlling for alcohol use, gender, age, and other variables, there is no association between marijuana use and standard volumetric or shape measurements of subcortical structures."

Why the incompatible results? Simple. The Boulder/Louisville team carefully controlled for the use of alcohol—a substance that "has been unequivocally associated with deleterious effects on brain morphology and cognition in both adults and adolescents," the researchers note—while the Harvard team did not.

"Results indicate that, when carefully controlling for alcohol use, gender, age, and other variables, there is no association between marijuana use and standard volumetric or shape measurements of subcortical structures," the study's authors determined.

Alas, their findings never became headline news—a result that surprised no one, including the researchers themselves. "The press may not cite studies that do not find sensational effects," they noted, "but these studies are still extremely important. While the literature clearly supports a deleterious short-term effect of marijuana on learning and memory, it seems unlikely that marijuana use has the same level of long-term deleterious effects on brain morphology as other drugs like alcohol."

Paul Armentano is the deputy director of NORML.

HIGH FIVE

Our Dumbshit Media

These stories are actual recent news articles on the "dangers" of pot. *By Mark Miller*



"Legal Pot Attracting Homeless"

The Pueblo (CO) Chieftain, January 2015

Chieftain **scribe Peter Roper interviewed several people on whether the homeless were moving to Pueblo to enjoy legal pot. A homeless advocate opined: "My instincts tell me that's what's going on." Good reporting! Another estimated that pot had drawn some 50 to 75 people to Pueblo in the last few months—hardly a social crisis. The media have shamelessly hyped this story.**



"BPD: BHO Represents 'Evolution of Drug Trade'"

bakersfieldnow.com, March 2015

Herein, Sgt. Joe Grubbs of the Bakersfield Police Department declaring that butane honey oil is replacing methamphetamine as the perennial Central Valley drug. (Like that would be a *bad* thing.) "This is the direction now that narcotics trafficking is going at the local level," Grubbs said. Really? Concentrates are sold as medicine in state dispensaries—*legally*!



"Smoking Skunk Cannabis Triples Risk of Serious Psychotic Episode, Says Research"

The Guardian, February 2015

Researchers at King's College London released a study linking high-THC pot to one-quarter of all new psychosis cases in South London. British tabloids jumped all over these "findings"—but the super-potent pot they refer to as "Skunk" is the medical marijuana of other nations, used to treat maladies like PTSD.



"Cartel-Poisoned, Porcupine-Eating Mammal Next on Endangered List?"

sfgate.com, October 2014

The Pacific fisher—a weasel currently numbering only 850—is threatened with extinction. But this story blamed "huge, illegal marijuana farms … spreading deadly rodenticides"—a ludicrous claim in light of deforestation caused by logging companies such as Sierra Pacific Industries, which was sued in 2010 to protect the old-growth-dwelling fisher.



"Marijuana Legalization Sparks Heroin, Meth Trade Increase With Mexican Cartels"

thefix.com, January 2015

This website blames legalization for "indirectly spark[ing] a radical shift in drugs entering the country from Mexico, with cartel members now pushing more heroin and meth than ever across the border." Legal weed is somehow to blame for an increase in heroin and meth trafficking? Give us a break!



ORIGINAL

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Inside the Wide World of Weed



"Pot for Sale" Facebook Post Backfires

A group of Russian tourists had their vacation spoiled when cops in Thailand raided two rented party houses and seized over 10 ounces of "compressed cannabis" and a bamboo pipe.

The raids, which resulted in the arrest of eight Russian nationals—five women and three men—were part of an investigation into a Facebook page that the group allegedly used to advertise pot and bongs for sale. (The page has since been deleted.)

Two of the men arrested, both 29, claimed ownership of the seized items and were formally charged with possession. The two insist that they didn't know marijuana is illegal in Thailand. Unfortunately, that excuse will likely be of little help, given the country's well-earned reputation for draconian drug laws.

Enemy at the Debate

A debate over marijuana legalization in Arizona devolved into something despicable thanks to Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery, who has fought Arizona's medical pot program at every turn since it was approved by voters in the 2010 election. During the Q&A portion of a recent debate over recreational marijuana, a Vietnam vet named Don Ream attempted to explain the benefits of medical cannabis to Montgomery.

But when Ream admitted that he also used pot recreationally, Montgomery spouted: "Well, then you're violating the law and I have no respect for you. And I have no respect for someone who would try to claim that you... took an oath to uphold the Constitution and defend against all enemies, foreign and domestic—because you're an enemy."

Members of the crowd promptly booed Montgomery, who also compared pot legalization to Adam and Eve being tempted to eat the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden.

MEDICAL POT IN PUERTO RICO



Medical marijuana is legal in Puerto Rico thanks to an unexpected order signed by Governor Alejandro García Padilla. García believes that, by legalizing medicinal pot, Puerto Rico is "taking a significant step in the area of health that is fundamental to our development and quality of life."

While the governor's executive order went into immediate effect, Puerto Rico's health secretary has three months to develop a plan for implementing the new medical pot program.

While the specific qualifying conditions and authorized uses for medical marijuana in Puerto Rico have yet to be detailed, Gov. García pointed out programs in the US that allow cannabis to treat symptoms of illnesses like epilepsy and multiple sclerosis. "I am sure that many patients will receive appropriate treatment that will offer them new hope," García said in a statement.



The DEA Needs More Pot!

Earlier this year, the federal government retained the University of Mississippi as its exclusive marijuana hookup on a $70 million contract. Now it appears Ole Miss will be earning that money, as the DEA hopes to greatly boost its supply: Former DEA administrator Michele Leonhart (see below) recently filed a proposal in the Federal Register seeking to increase the agency's cannabis quota threefold for 2015.

Since 1968, the University of Mississippi has provided all of the pot used in federally approved clinical trials. For most of that time, there's been little demand; however, according to the DEA's request, the Feds now need more pot because "research and product development involving cannabidiol (CBD) is increasing beyond that previously anticipated for 2015." The National Institute on Drug Abuse is also hoping to get its hands on more government-grown ganja for research.

This is the second straight year that the DEA has requested more pot: Last year, the agency increased its quota from 21 to 650 kilograms (about 1,440 pounds).

Good Riddance



Despite years of openly defying the president on pot policy, it took a sex scandal to finally unseat Michele Leonhart as head of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Leonhart—whose willful ignorance regarding the dangers of marijuana was so over the top as to become almost comical—will likely be most remembered as the DEA chief who clung to reefer madness-era myths about pot while the American public's view on cannabis dramatically shifted. This disconnect was memorably highlighted when Leonhart flatly refused to acknowledge that meth, crack or heroin were more dangerous than pot during congressional questioning in 2012.

Ms. Leonhart was out of step with the president in opposing state-level legalization efforts and reduced penalties for pot. She also criticized Obama during a law enforcement conference for statements he made that marijuana was no more harmful than alcohol.

Nonetheless, Leonhart was undone by a string of drug cartel sponsored sex parties her agents participated in over the course of several years.

Oregon Representative Earl Blumenauer, a Democrat, is hoping the president fills the new DEA vacancy with "someone who understands the outdated federal approach to marijuana isn't working."

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Miracle-Gro Targets Pot Gardens

Scotts Miracle-Gro, the multinational lawn-and-garden-product manufacturer worth an estimated $2.8 billion, is thrusting its evil tentacles into the marijuana market.

The company's recently formed offshoot, Hawthorne Gardening Co., which was created to target a younger, hipper gardening demographic (read: pot growers), has acquired General Hydroponics for $130 million. That's the company's biggest acquisition since it broke into the European market nearly 20 years ago. In a related move, Scotts/Hawthorne also acquired Bio-Organic Solutions, the California-based manufacturer of ganja-garden products.

General Hydroponics products—such as their liquid nutrients—are widely used around the world by indoor pot farmers and currently generate $40 million in sales annually. Scotts CEO Jim Hagedorn confirmed that the acquisitions were motivated by a desire to attract younger customers, while also positioning Scotts for financial growth as marijuana legalization is embraced both in the US and abroad.

Never-Ending Cannabis Crackdown

LA's continuing crackdown on medical pot dispensaries reached a dubious milestone in April when City Attorney Mike Feuer announced that more than 500 medical pot shops have closed in less than two years, with over 400 shutting down since last year alone.

There were an estimated 700 to 800 dispensaries operating in Los Angeles when the crackdown began. Ultimately, the city's goal is to reduce the number of cannabis storefronts to 135, the figure mandated by Proposition D, which was passed by voters in 2013.

Dispensaries can be shut down for a number of reasons, including being too close to schools or parks, or even for not being registered under previous city ordinances.

Fortunately, there are still plenty of places to legally and conveniently buy marijuana in LA, as new medical pot shops quickly take the place of shuttered dispensaries—often on the same block. After all, a mere 135 dispensaries serving the second-largest city in America just doesn't work.

OBAMA FREES 22 DRUG PRISONERS



President Obama used his executive authority to commute the prison sentences of 22 drug offenders—a move that doubled the number of commutations he's issued since taking office in 2009. Though Obama has generally been stingy with pardons, his clemency here is seen as part of an effort to chip away at federal mandatory-minimum sentencing.

A White House statement confirmed that these particular drug offenders were chosen because they were imprisoned "under an outdated sentencing regime." While this is a progressive development, it represents just a small fraction of the people who are suffering in prisons and jails due to archaic Drug War laws.

Interestingly, the vast majority of the 22 commuted sentences were for offenses involving hard drugs. Only one pardoned prisoner—Francis Darrell Hayden of Loretto, Kentucky—had been incarcerated for pot.



Downward Dog

A drug bust in Brazil became a viral sensation thanks to an obedient guard dog that joined the suspects as they were ordered by police officers to get down on the ground. According to a police spokesman, the dog initially barked at the raiding officers, but after seeing his owners submit to the commands of authorities, he decided to do likewise. Authorities say they seized pot, coke and guns in the raid.

An animal psychiatrist confirmed that the photograph shows the guard dog in a submissive position, with his underbelly exposed. Also, his head is turned away from the authorities, further indicating nonaggression on the pup's part.

As it turns out, this instinct to surrender might have saved his life: The cops in Brazil (and elsewhere, including the United States) routinely shoot canines—guard dogs or otherwise—during drug busts.

Department of Injustice

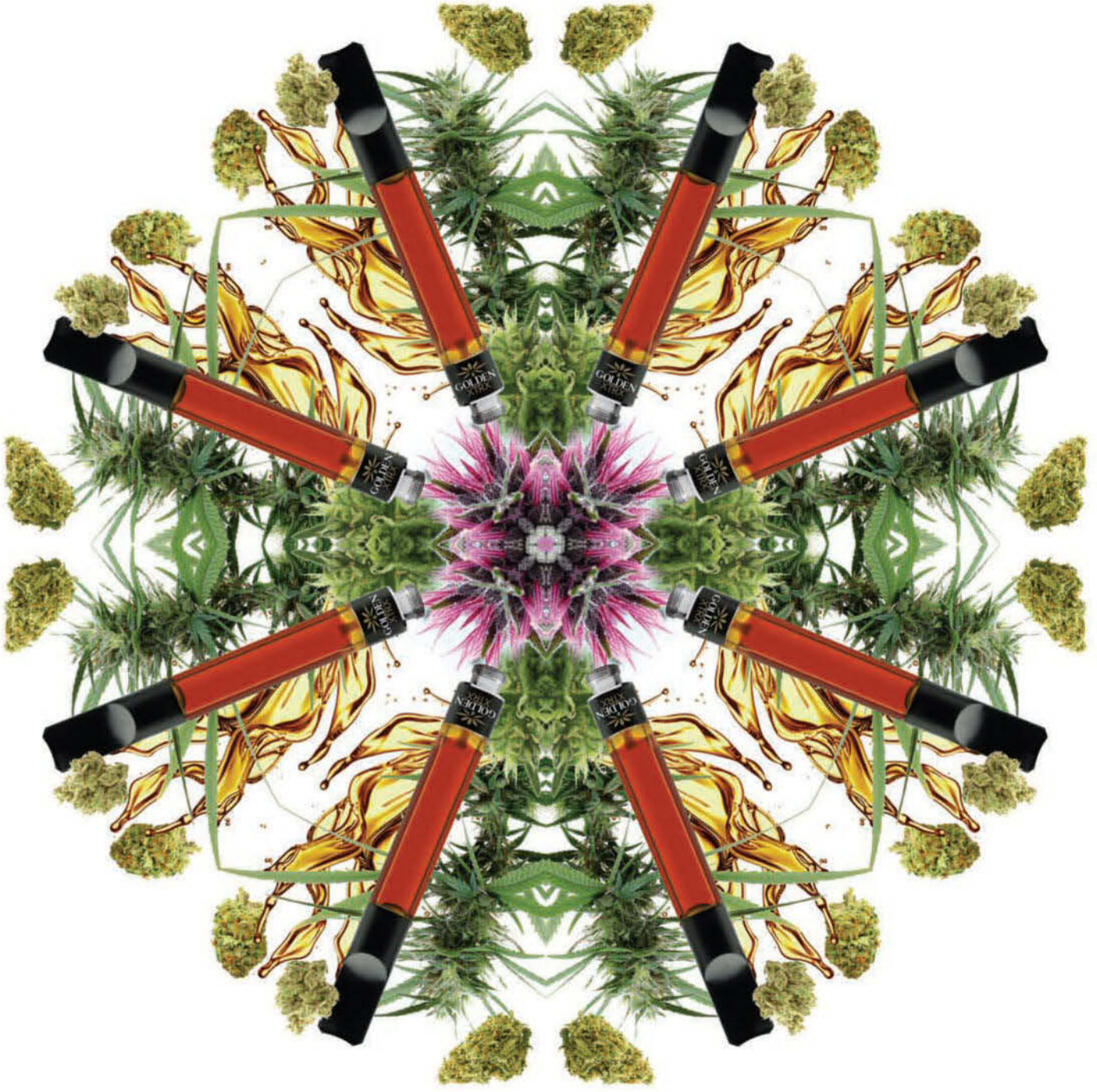
Late last year, Congress passed a bipartisan amendment that prohibits the Department of Justice from spending money on any efforts to impede states that wish to implement medical marijuana laws. Nevertheless, the DOJ recently announced that it would ignore the amendment—signed into law by President Obama—and continue busting medical pot patients and seizing their property.

Essentially, the DOJ is pretending not to understand the amendment's clear intent, insisting that it prevents federal law enforcement from interfering only with the ability of *states* to carry out medical pot laws, even as *individuals* remain fair game for prosecution.

In a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, the amendment's co-authors, Representatives Sam Farr (D-CA) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), declare the DOJ's interpretation of the law "emphatically wrong." In their letter the two wrote: "[W]e respectfully insist that you bring your Department back into compliance with federal law by ceasing marijuana prosecutions and forfeiture actions against those acting in accordance with state medical marijuana laws."

A Nation's Shame

Given the opportunity to do some good for US military veterans, the Congress, predictably, failed. A measure that would have allowed doctors working with the Veterans Administration to discuss medical pot with their patients was defeated by a vote of 213-210. The VA's own stats indicate that 30 percent of veterans suffer from PTSD—a condition that can be effectively treated with cannabis.



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HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*


Omar Treviño, a.k.a. "Z-42"

Mexico's Notorious "Z-42" Busted

Mexican authorities on March 4 announced the capture of Omar Treviño, a.k.a. "Z-42"—the leader of Los Zetas, the ultra-violent narco-paramilitary network that has long terrorized the country. Treviño was detained by federal police and soldiers in an upscale suburb of the northern industrial hub of Monterrey. Former DEA chief Michele Leonhart congratulated Mexico, saying the bust "strikes at the heart of the leadership structure of the Zetas." The US State Department had a $5 million price on Treviño's head.

Los Zetas emerged as the paramilitary enforcement arm of the Gulf Cartel in 1999, integrating veterans of the Mexican and Guatemalan armed forces into their command structure. They broke from the Gulf Cartel in 2010, precipitating a three-way war with their former bosses and a mutual rival, the Sinaloa Cartel. In this grim struggle for narco-supremacy, the Zetas became infamous for their spectacular brutality. They pioneered the tactic (later made famous by ISIS) of releasing gruesome execution videos. They have also been responsible for the massacres of abducted migrants, who presumably refused to serve as drug "mules."


One possible answer to economic woes

Albania to Legalize Cannabis Cultivation?

Albania has become the top supplier of marijuana for Europe. Last year, the government carried out a major eradication campaign, destroying scores of plantations and arresting dozens. In February, the online publication *Balkan Insight* reported that Koço Kokëdhima, an MP with the country's ruling Socialist Party, has started a campaign to legalize cannabis cultivation. "Albania produces cannabis of high quality, well known in Europe. This could be done under state licenses for the pharmaceutical industry," Kokëdhima told Parliament in a discussion on aiding the country's impoverished rural sector.

His newspaper *Shekulli* is plugging the idea, citing Colorado and Washington as examples, though Kokëdhima has not yet introduced legislation, apparently waiting for support to build. In the usual paradox, Europe's top pot producer also has the continent's harshest drug laws: Tokers have been imprisoned for up to five years for possession of just a few grams of herb.

However, struggling farmers have little choice but to risk it. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime has found that Albanian farmers can sell 1 kilogram of cannabis for a hefty 300 euros. By contrast, wheat earns just 200 euros per metric ton (1,000 kilos).

Mexican Narco-Gang Decapitates Candidate for Mayor

Aide Nava, a 42-year-old woman running for mayor in Mexico's southern Guerrero state, was found decapitated March 11, a day after she was abducted in her hometown of Ahuacuotzingo. The decapitated body was found with a note signed by Los Rojos, one of the main Guerrero narco-gangs, threatening the same treatment for any politician who does not "fall in line." Nava had been seized by gunmen who stopped her campaign bus on a rural road. Her family, activists with the leftist Party of


Aide Nava

the Democratic Revolution (PRD), had long been under threat. Her husband, the former mayor of Ahuacuotzingo, was gunned down by an assassin in 2014. Their son was kidnapped in 2012 and remains missing.

Los Rojos are said to be rivals of the Guerreros Unidos, the gang named in the abduction and massacre of 43 students in Guerrero last year—a case that sparked massive protests across Mexico. Guerrero is now considered Mexico's most violent state, registering 1,514 homicides in 2014.

US Troops Sent to Peru's Coca Zone

A force of US Marines has been sent to Peru—specifically to the conflict-racked, coca-growing jungle region known as the VRAEM, or River Valleys of the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro. Peru's Congress quietly approved the deployment in a resolution on January 29. The first contingent of 58 Marines arrived on February 1, and another 67 were mobilized two weeks later. The Marines will remain for a year on what's being called a "training" mission. A larger contingent of some 3,200 Marines is set to arrive in September for a six-day joint exercise with Peruvian forces.


Coca growers in Peru

In a Lima interview with the *Marine Corps Times*, Adm. Luis de la Flor Rivero, commandant of the Peruvian Marine Corps, cited the need to defend against improvised explosive devices (IEDs), a constant threat to US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and also used by guerrillas in the VRAE. "What better way to do it than by joining the experiences our marines face... with what [US] Marines experienced in their conflicts?" the admiral said. "By putting them together and exchanging those ideas, we increase our knowledge of the problem and find better ways to prevent this type of weapon."

But the deployment is meeting with some protests. Alberto Adrianzen, Peru's representative to the Andean Parliament, told the Venezuelan network Telesur that the decision "confirms that the Peruvian government is following a position of not looking for a South American mechanism for defense, which is what many nations propose, but a special relationship with the United States."

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, globalganjareport.com and worldwar4report.com.


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Fine Green Dining

Chef Rachel Rubin caters to ganja-loving gastronomists with an incredible marijuana-infused farm-to-table menu.



Mota enthusiasts gather to dine.

At 7 p.m. on a Saturday in spring, 12 strangers gathered at the artists' collective Space 1970 in San Francisco's Mission District. Dimly glowing lights and soft vintage jazz greeted the visitors upon their arrival, but it wasn't the ambience that caught their attention; it was the irresistible scent of marijuana. Cooking weed. Smoking weed. Baking weed. Sautéing weed. Everywhere, the aroma of … weed.

The event was the very first "Green Dinner," a pop-up fine-dining experience featuring six cannabis-infused courses, complete with wine pairings. There was cannabis in the croutons, the cooking oils, the desserts, the cocktails, the salad dressing—even in the butter for the steak.

When asked about her passion for preparing meals with marijuana, 25-year veteran chef Rachel Rubin replied, "Are you kidding me? I feel there's no difference between ordering a martini and infusing meals with a personalized amount of edible product—hence, the Green Dinner."

Guests were greeted with an infused cocktail upon arrival, and they smoked and relaxed in the lounge area until dinner was served. To customize their dining experience, they were was asked to fill out a card, numbered from one to 10, to choose the intensity of each dish. If someone was done indulging, they could show a "stop" card. One guest quickly chose level nine for their meal, while another said, "I picked level two. I'm scared."

The first course was Peruvian ceviche with hemp chips, followed by root-vegetable purée with herb-infused oils. After the salad course, a mid-dinner break gave diners an opportunity to evaluate how the edibles were affecting them so far. Asked how she was feeling, Guest No. 5 replied, "I'm feeling good. Mellow. Yeah … mellow."

Pan-seared halibut drizzled with herb oil and steak filet with herb-infused butter rounded out the meal. Then came dessert: lemon tartlets, ice-cream sandwiches that glowed a faint green, truffles, cookies, cheeses and sherry. Plus coffee and tea. And if that wasn't enough, there was more smoke, more infused cocktails and dancing (some of which *may* have turned into wobbling).



Cannabis-infused ceviche

Around 1 a.m., as the guests called for their required safe ride home, each was presented with a gift box of edibles. Thus ended the highly successful inaugural Green Dinner. I contacted Guest No. 5 a couple days later and asked how she was feeling. She said, "I had to go buy a stronger strain of weed, 'cause my current stuff doesn't work any more. Awww, yeah!" *Miki Ann Mosman*

Visit thegreendinner.com.

Heavy Metal

When *High Times* founder Tom Forçade filmed the Sex Pistols' chaotic 1978 US tour for the documentary *D.O.A.*, it was very much against the record company's wishes. In fact, at one point, frustrated execs sent over a goon to stop the film crew from getting any more footage. When confronted by the hulking bruiser, Forçade removed his belt—complete with this heavy-duty High Times buckle—and handed it to original HT staffer John Holmstrom to use as a weapon if things got ugly. The situation was resolved peacefully, but Tom forgot to put his belt back on; it now exists as a punk-rock-era relic in Holmstrom's private collection.



SPOTLIGHT

Floss Bikini

Handmade in Miami, the Floss reversible string bikini is perfect for the confident woman with an effortless sense of poolside style. One side sports a marijuana-leaf print; the other is a tantalizingly trippy tie-dye. The triangle top is lightly padded, and the tanga bottom's sassy strings are adorned with 420 beads. This chic swimwear's mix of urban edge, coastal comfort and free-spirited fun in the sun is perfect for lounging on the sand with a vape in your hand. *flosswithus.com*



MIKI ANN MOSMAN (2)



This beast of sound has many heads.

Hardcore Friends Forever

Sabertooth Zombie sink their teeth into having a really good time. *By John Payne*

What could possibly be better than hanging out with buds you like *and* making music together? Nothing, says Sabertooth Zombie guitarist Jay McNeilly. Indeed, this is one hardcore-and-more band that began making music for the bestest reason of all: It's a fun thing to do.

The Sabertooth krew's kustom-krafted hodgepodge of classic hard rock, thrashing hardcore metallistics, outlaw-type country and arty, poetic lyrical spew evolved during the group's co-habitation of a crash pad in Santa Rosa, CA.

"Instead of starting a baseball team or playing softball and stuff, everyone was playing music," says McNeilly. "We started out as a goofy side project with a real goofy name, and we did real goofy shit for a while, and it grew into a goofy name with a real serious band behind it."

Decidedly not a lazy buncha sods, the band—also comprising singer Cody Sullivan, guitarist Eric Enos, Sullivan's brother Blaine on bass and drummer Jason Woolery—has been bewilderingly prolific down through the years, with each record more eclectic than the last. The new *Human Performance IV* EP is their 15th recording.

"I never cared about what to call music or even how to know what to call the music you make," says McNeilly. "It's really just what you're influenced by, and what situation in life you're in. You just write music based on that rather than 'Oh, let's sound like a certain specific thing.'"

Sabertooth songs are a steamingly impious brew of musical extremes, which says something about the way the open-minded 'tooth puts its collective head together to spark the glowing bowl of sound.

"It's completely collaborative," says McNeilly. "There's no main songwriter, though on this last record each person came to the table with the idea of a song."

"Or something just comes out by accident," says Enos.

In the studio, the band's swirling musical admixtures are both carefully planned and spontaneously generated.

"The experience of recording morphs the record into being what it is," says Cody Sullivan. "If it sounds spontaneous, it's because we're figuring it out every time, again and again."

Sabertooth Zombie heartily endorse cannabis in its many-splendoured configurations. It fits nicely into their creative process.

"I wrote a lot of the earlier Sabertooth stuff without it," says singer Sullivan, "but I write *all* of it now with it. I don't think you smoke a joint and all of a sudden you're creative; it just turns you into a person that's able to see things that jump out at you. It opens up your mind to the creative ether."

"The way our live show unfolds, if we're not a little bit high, it's a little too stark."

Some musicians steer clear of cannabis before they hit the stage; they say it fractures their focus. For Sabertooth's live performances, focus ain't the issue.

"We want to have no focus at all," says Sullivan. "The way our live show unfolds, if we're not a little bit high, it's a little too stark."

As far as ye olde *indica* v. *sativa* debate goes, here's a band honest enough to admit that they most likely couldn't tell the difference in a blindfold test.

"There's that placebo action when you go with your medical card and you can be choosy, and you go with it," says McNeilly. "It's like, 'Yeah, this one, I'm not just gonna wanna sleep and eat some food, I'll be awake!' Whatever, you're just smoking weed."

On the healthy-lifestyle tip, Sabertooth Zombie are looking into vaping, and they enjoy smoke-free edibles, though not when they play live—too mellow, they say.

"But that's the best thing on an eight-hour van ride," says McNeilly. "Pop a li'l brownie on the way, and your butt won't hurt as much."



Highly Dependable Musicians
McNeilly promises, "We may or may not have a set list for the show we're playing that night, and we might not know how we're getting there or when everyone's meeting up, but we will always be there on time."

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Shrouded in mist: Lost Tribe has a mysterious vibe.

Night and Fog

Dark post-punks Lost Tribe bring smoke of all kinds. *By Polly Watson*

The first time I saw Richmond, Virginia, cemetery rippers Lost Tribe, I didn't actually *see* them: The band was shrouded in so much fog that the audience, bathed in varying intensities of white and pink light, had no chance of finding their way to the bar or the door, and thus were forced to submit to Lost Tribe's razor-wire guitars and warm, jagged synths, which surrounded their singer's rich, tortured vocals as effectively as the synthetic smoke enveloped the band.

An accidental case of overkill, says keyboardist JK, who recalls a show in Chicago that was similarly opaque. "The fog machine we used was a several-thousand-watt model that I'm told is used for firefighter simulations." He admits that the fog juice can get expensive and posits an exciting alternative: "I think on our next West Coast tour, I could try and muster a pure *weed* fog show if I get some help from the audience."

Joking aside, watching Lost Tribe play live is a visceral experience precisely because of their commitment to spectacle; for the band, music is just one facet of their art. Whether going supernova in a hot and tiny Midwest basement or at a big festival like Montreal's Rrroooaaarrr, Lost Tribe "consider a live performance to be an opportunity to expand on all fronts," says Fran, one of the band's two guitarists. "Nothing is more off-putting than watching a band perform with the bass player with their back to you under some poor house lighting."

Little chance you'll catch Lost Tribe committing that or any other lazy error. Formed in 2009, and heavily influenced by late-'70s/early-'80s death rockers such as UK greats the Sound and Finland's Musta Paraati, the band waited eight months before playing their first show. "We wanted to make sure our sound was solid," explains singer Davey.

A cassette, a seven-inch and a self-titled album (Blind Prophet, 2011) followed before Lost Tribe dropped their sophomore effort *Solace* (Mass Media) late last year; the vinyl quickly sold out in the wake of a US tour.

"It was a very conscious choice to release our first demo on cassette," says bassist Shravan. For Lost Tribe, vintage gear and analog media are important to their sound, which, along with records by co-conspirators like Anasazi, Crimson Scarlet and Spectres, sets the gold standard for next-gen noir.

"We will leave nothing but the wind blowing through the rocks."

But when it comes to songwriting, "THC is the fuel rod in the reactor," says JK. Singer Davey prefers a bowl, while the keyboardist insists that "bongs are the best—but on the road, joints and spliffs are the choicest. To quote *Dune*, we will leave nothing but the wind blowing through the rocks."

Fran and drummer Kyle, meanwhile, are fans of psychedelics: "They definitely play a part in the writing process," Kyle says.

Weed also plays its part in the touring process. "One time in NYC on 4/20," JK recalls, "I was outside and found a fourth of weed on the sidewalk, and proceeded to roll half of it into a single joint the size of a hot dog. We smoked while we drove around NYC at 4:20 the next day, and got Davey and Fran so high that we were able to convince them to stay behind without a plan or any money. We had a lot more van space on the way back."

According to guitarist Forrest, Lost Tribe will likely be in Texas this summer, and then in Mexico. Here's hoping everyone makes it into the van for the ride home.



Dark Entries (to the World of Weed)

Singer Davey (first time, age 15): "I remember staring at a picture on the wall for hours. I started peeing on the picture like I was an animal."

Guitarist Fran (first time, seventh grade): "My friends found me eating Fruity Pebbles in the dark."

TONY LYNCH (2)

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Musical misfits from Muswell Hill

A Kase of The Kinks

They're not like everybody else.

It was late 1965, and "A Well Respected Man" was a hit. Like all gems by The Kinks, it took one's melodic lobes hostage. The lyrics were also uniquely smart—a pointed critique of the discreet charm of the bourgeoisie. Here was intelligence to refute my father's mockery of rock's alleged simplemindedness. One day a DJ announced "And now, The Kinks!" and I marched into the parental bedroom, armed with a transistor radio and an agenda. "Listen to the words!" I beseeched. My folks were not amused: "They're making fun of us!" I hadn't fully realized, until that moment, the song's target. While my original intent was foiled, another part of me was very pleased.



The Kinks
The Anthology 1964–1971
(BMG/InGrooves)

The Kinks made music for misfits. "I'm Not Like Everybody Else" was an early track, and it was true. Leader and song scribe Ray Davies has a distinctive voice: a North London pub-crawler with a head cold. While their first hits were top-shelf garage rock ("You Really Got Me" is an ür-metal classic), The Kinks rapidly diversified, blending social commentary with English music hall. And brother Dave Davies's perfectly complementary lead guitar proved that a combo can orchestrate as effectively as the London Philharmonic.

The Kinks' gilded age is bricked like Fort Knox in this glittering five-disc box, one nugget after another: "Tired of Waiting for You," "Waterloo Sunset" and Dave's "Death of a Clown," just to name a few. "Dedicated Follower of Fashion" was another anti-conformist barb, and "David Watts" and "Lola" were blatantly homoerotic. The Kinks also premiered one of the early rock operas and, while never as financially feted as peers like The Who, they had hits and a diehard fan base that appreciated their IQ, wit, hooks, rhythmic insistence and, crucially, the fact that they were not like everybody else. *Michael Simmons*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Royal Thunder
Crooked Doors
(Relapse)

If you haven't heard Georgia's Royal Thunder yet, now would be a good time to start. *Crooked Doors* is the kind of potent, soulful rock record that disappeared about 35 years ago. Which isn't to say that Royal Thunder are a throwback band. On the contrary: Guitarist Josh Weaver merges heavy '70s licks and classic Southern rock with tasteful modern embellishments, while vocalist/bassist Mlny Parsonz's indelible wail soars over infectious blasters, rolling slow-burners and shimmering ballads alike. Essential listening for anyone who wonders where the soul of rock went. *J. Bennett*



Lightning Bolt
Fantasy Empire
(Thrill Jockey)

Rhode Island duo Brian Chippendale and Brian Gibson wield their bass and drums for maximum mayhem on their first album in five years. The Bolt's sonic screech has been recorded in gloriously hi-fi sound, the enhanced clarity setting aural fire to the ungodly speed and intricate interplay they deliver in "Over the River and Through the Woods," "Horsepower" and the opus "Snow White (& The 7 Dwarves Fans)." The band's throbbing, hyper-metal heaviness bears a message: This is pop music, 'cause that's the sound your spine makes when you try dancing to it. *John Payne*



Juicy J
Blue Dream & Lean 2
(Self-released)

Attention, stoners: Juicy J still gets his dick sucked. On his new mixtape, the prolific Three 6 Mafia figurehead gets dome from Condoleezza Rice and an endless stream of drugged-out groupies, while ingesting controlled substances and making an inordinate amount of cash. *Blue Dream & Lean 2* is a testament to J's ability to write hooks as sticky as his weed. On "Don't"—the most political song in his Academy Award–winning, quarter-century-long career—Juicy dissects police brutality with a ferocity and poignancy that proves he's more than gangster party rap. *Ira Gamerman*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Sweet Mary Jane
Karin Lazarus
(Avery Publishing Group)

Karin Lazarus's bakery in Boulder, CO, is known far beyond the city limits for its award-winning, pot-infused confections. Applying gourmet techniques, top-of-the-line weed and the best ingredients, Lazarus now offers up 75 of her infamously delicious desserts. I made the delicious "Mad Batter Chocolate Chip Coffee Cake" using her strongest Buddha Butter recipe, and was blown away by the beauty of the process as well as the cake's medicinal effects. Munchies-inducing photos and clear instructions make this book a must-have for all high-minded bakers. *Mary Ought Six*

MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS



Lucy
Directed by Luc Besson
(Canal Plus)

When forced to become a drug mule, things get weird for Lucy (Scarlett Johansson). A kilo of synthetic chemicals ruptures in her abdomen, delivering a mega-dose that unlocks her brain's untapped potential, allowing her to read minds and control time and space. Lucy uses her newfound gifts to track down other mules and consume their stashes (for "medicinal purposes") so that she won't disintegrate into stardust. Will she be able, thanks to her godlike powers, to find all the drugs before the mafia does? Use some percentage of your brain to figure it out. *Fritz Meier*

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Beezle's Creamery, a two-time Cannabis Cup winner, shares its secrets.

When Dorian met Stephanie, a food scientist, at the SoCal Cannabis Cup last year, Beezle's Creamery was born as a spin-off of Dorian's hash business. Together, Stephanie and Dorian created their infused crème brûlée, which scored perfectly on its lab tests and took top prize at the Cup. You can find this fantastic treat in California dispensaries, or you can make it yourself right now! *Elise McDonough*

BEEZLE'S CRÈME BRÛLÉE

2¼ cups organic heavy whipping cream
⅔ cups organic granulated cane sugar, plus 6 tbsp. for the crust
5 organic large egg yolks
1 whole organic vanilla bean (split and scraped)
4 grams of BHO-infused coconut oil (at 75 mg THC per gram)

Equipment:
6 crème brûlée ramekins (4 oz each)
1 high-walled baking dish
1 gram scale for accurate doses

First, make 4 grams of BHO-infused coconut oil. Heat 3.5 grams of coconut oil in a small saucepan. Check the temperature frequently with a kitchen thermometer. When the oil reaches 250°F, add 0.5 grams of BHO. Stir with a wooden skewer until the BHO has broken up. Keep the temperature steady to achieve the best results. Once the mixture begins to bubble, cover and cook until the bubbles begin to subside. This is the point at which most of the THCA has been converted into psychoactive THC! Remove from heat and reserve for later use.

If your BHO is 60 percent THC (use lab-tested product whenever possible) and you add 0.5 grams, you've effectively added 300 mg THC—just enough for six crème brûlées at 50 mg apiece. You can modify these calculations if you want a more or less potent treat, or if you know the specific level of THC in the BHO you're using.

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Place the cream, vanilla bean, and vanilla-bean pulp into a saucepan and warm over medium-high heat. When the cream begins to boil, remove from heat and cover.

Whisk the egg yolks in a large bowl with the sugar. When the mixture begins to lighten in color, slowly add the heated cream (about a half-cup at a time), stirring continuously. Next, strain it through a fine-mesh sieve into a clean container. Add the BHO-infused coconut oil and stir vigorously until fully mixed. (The custard base should still be hot, so the infused oil should mix easily).

Space six ramekins evenly in a baking dish and fill each with about 4 ounces of the custard base. Place the baking dish in the oven and add hot water until it reaches halfway up the sides of the ramekins. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes. When finished, each crème brûlée should be set but still wobbly in the middle. Move them to a cooling rack for 30 minutes. Then cover each one with Saran Wrap and refrigerate until fully cooled (at least three hours).

When ready to serve, top each crème brûlée with 1 tablespoon of sugar. Torch the sugar or use your broiler to heat them until you've achieved a nice, even crust. Serve immediately. *Stones six.*



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Prices by the ounce

Index Watch: All indices essentially held steady in August, however, the Mids Index rebounded slightly from a nine-month low in July and the US Price Index also experienced a modest gain. Each Index finished the month within $6 of its year-to-date average.

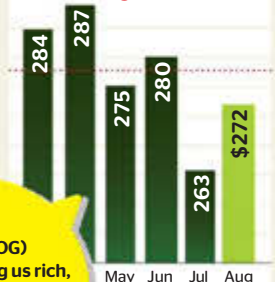
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California	San Jose	Tahoe OG	275
Colorado	Denver	Headband	300
Connecticut	Hartford	Sensi Star	360
Delaware	New Castle	Bubblegum	350
Florida	Gainesville	Juicy Fruit	300
Georgia	Augusta	Purps	320
Indiana	Indianapolis	White Rhino	350
Iowa	Cedar Rapids	Blue Dream	325
Louisiana	Lafayette	Blue Hawaiian	280
Maine	Kennebunk	Girl Scout Cookies	220
Maryland	Baltimore	Sour OG	400
Massachusetts	Boston	SFV OG Kush	280
Michigan	Detroit	Diesel	200
Minnesota	Winona	Chocolate Chunk	280
Mississippi	Philadelphia	Pineapple Kush	300
Missouri	Springfield	Grand Daddy Purps	275
Montana	Bozeman	Cinderella 99	260
Nevada	Las Vegas	Tahoe OG	420
New Jersey	Hoboken	Sour Diesel	360
North Carolina	Charlotte	Sweet Tooth	375
Ohio	Canton	King Louis XIII	275
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	NYC Diesel	275
Oregon	Portland	Silver Haze	180
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Girl Scout Cookies	350
Tennessee	Chattanooga	Green Crack	400
Texas	Austin	Death Star	320
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COOL COLORADO CANNABIS COMPANIES

Just 20 months ago, the Rocky Mountain State took a giant step in building our nation's cannabis economy, enabling adults to purchase recreational pot and empowering businesses to dream big. *High Times* takes you on a tour of Colorado's thriving cannabusiness scene. *By Dan Skye*

Go West!

Randy Russell, a former electrical engineer for the Ford Motor Company, always dreamed of owning his own company. That dream has been realized in Pueblo West Organics, which serves both recreational and medical customers. Randy's got big plans: Pueblo West has partnered with Bhang Chocolates to create Bhang Colorado, which Pueblo will produce. He's also developing a Pueblo West vape-pen line and an extraction lab to fill them. Elliott Cody runs the on-site organic grow, which comprises five flower rooms and two veg rooms to keep up with the ever-increasing demand. He names Super Sour Alien, Glass Slipper, Sour Punch and Ice Cream as their top sellers. There's always plenty of great buds in stock, plus a super-friendly staff to guide you.

Visit pueblowestorganics.com.



Elliott Cody is Pueblo West Organics' master grower.



The ladies of Fresh Baked in Boulder offer a variety of great strains.

Beautifully Baked

"Try the Kind Mind Kryptonite—it's been tested at 30 percent THC." The advice comes from Samantha (far right), one of the skilled budtenders minding the store at Fresh Baked in Boulder. Her recommendation, like most of the buds available here, is a winner—and their Jack Flash (Jack Herer x Skunk #1), which took second place at the 2012 Cannabis Cup in Denver, is another. This is a cozy, inviting shop, certainly one of the friendliest dispensaries in the state. And for good reason—they've got the goods! Their grow op is state-of-the-art, an all-hydro operation with each strain's requirements meticulously dialed in by star grower Kevin. Check out the video tour, "Visiting the Gardens of Fresh Baked," at *hightimes.com*.

Visit freshbakedcolorado.com.


Jake Salazar plans to expand MMJ America nationally.

Expansion Express

Jake Salazar now owns a Denver city landmark: the greenhouses that served Dardano's Flowerland for more than 60 years. Now they'll produce thousands of pounds of pot for MMJ America, one of Colorado's leading dispensary chains. Out of this expanse, 55,000 square feet are designated for growing, while 14,000 are tabbed to house the dispensary, which will feature the first interactive cannabis facility on the planet, where the public can view the actual process of breeding, growing, curing and preparing crops for the market. MMJ America currently has a handful of locations in Denver as well as one in Boulder: "A total of seven by the end of the year," Jake vows. He's also got plans for a pot-friendly hotel in downtown Denver. As the name suggests, MMJ America is also expanding to Nevada, overseeing a massive greenhouse grow and opening a dispensary on the edge of the Las Vegas Strip.
Visit mmjamerica.com.


High Country Healing in Alma, CO.

Our Highest Garden

In the February 2015 issue of *High Times*, we profiled the gardens of High Country Healing ("America's Highest Garden"). Is it possible that the soaring altitude creates better highs? Could be. Owner Mark January oversees the company's two great stores in Alma and Silverthorne, which stock some of the best buds from the extremely high country (10,578 feet). Their Grape Ape is a superlative *indica*, their Maui Wowie a light, uplifting *sativa*. But over 20 strains are yours for the asking. Look for the bright orange bungalow on Highway 9 in Alma. In Silverthorne, get off the I-70 at exit 205. Across the street from Wendy's.
Visit highcountryhealing.com.


Kristi Iannacone serves customers at Alpenglow Botanicals.

Mountain Glow

This is a sleek shop with a full array of cannabis products and a soil-based grow op onsite, including a mother room that nurtures 50-plus strains. It's a tightly run operation with 25 employees serving two store locations. (The other store is located in Dillon.) Master grower Dan Lesjak is proud that Alpenglow offers authentic mountain flowers. Check out their Agent Orange and Strawberry Blue.
Visit alpenglowbotanicals.com.

Within the next two years, Acme expects to have 10 or more stores in operation on the Western Slope of the Rockies.


Chris Sanchez (right) with the Acme Healing Center staff

Western Slope Wonder

The rise of the Acme Healing Center has been meteoric. Owner Chris Sanchez opened Acme's first shop in Crested Butte in 2010, and he's added a new one in each subsequent year, in Durango, Ridgway and Carbondale. Within the next two years, Acme expects to have 10 or more stores in operation on the Western Slope of the Rockies and a 60,000-square-foot greenhouse operation to stock their shelves. With award-winning strains like Cognac Kush, CD Cookies and Golden Goat, Acme expects to be king of the mountains, rolling out a weedy welcome mat for tourists. Smoking devices and accessories are available, as well as a full line of Acme and Indica Brand clothing, plus products from local vendors and artists.
Visit acmehealingcenter.com.

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Lacy works in the greenhouses of Marisol.

A Family Affair

Marisol Therapeutics in Pueblo have been expanding ever since they first opened—especially their garden! As a medical provider, Marisol started out with a single greenhouse in 2009. Now, with the advent of recreational pot, they have four in operation—with more to come! Three generations of the Stetler family are involved in the biz, with Michael, a veteran grower, leading the charge. Marisol's dispensary, located in Pueblo West, is a spacious store adorned with a giant white buffalo on the wall, a symbol of sacred life and abundance. And you'll find an abundance of amazing signature strains like the Santa Maria and Nehi Grape. Tommy Chong was so blown away by their buds that he licensed his name to create Chongstar (NYC Diesel x Nehi Grape), a high-powered Marisol hybrid. Now everyone can get high with Tommy!

Visit marisolmed.com.


Alternative Medical Solutions provides relaxed shopping.

Bud Browsing

Need a little time before you purchase your buds? Take all the time you need at Alternative Medical Solutions in Aspen. Pot shoppers can peruse a number of strains at convenient browsing stations, where canisters of buds can be sniffed and viewed using an attached jeweler's loupe. This is an all-purpose store with all of the accessories that a stoner ski bum needs to make après-ski time extra-special. Try the exquisite AMS House Sour Diesel. It will leave you gaspin' in Aspen!

Visit altmedicalsolutions.com.


Scott has you covered in Breck.

Breckenridge Organic Therapy

Looking for organic, hand-trimmed buds produced in a solar-powered, totally green operation? Then you're in the right place. This Breckenridge pot shop (across the street from the other three) is a homey bungalow with cool art on the walls and great weed on the shelves, such as the Alien Band and pre-'98 Bubba Kush—and there's a sister store, Greenest Green, in Boulder. Bolder Cannabis and Extracts is the power behind these top-flight buds.

Visit breckenridgeorganictherapy.com, greenestgreenboulder.com, boldercannabisandextracts.com.

"Durango has a great affinity for personal liberty .... The education and comfort of the customer are our foremost concerns."


Wen oversees the bustling Animas Herbal Wellness Center.

Taking Liberty

The Animas Herbal Wellness Center in Durango just opened its doors to the recreational crowd last September. Since 2009, it has served as Durango's go-to dispensary, known for its great customer service. Wen, the manager and PR director, says: "Durango has a great affinity for personal liberty .... The education and comfort of the customer are our foremost concerns." The online comments bear witness to this success. In addition to great strains like the Brain OG and Banana Kush, a wide range of tinctures, edibles and concentrates are available. The genetic library of master grower John Menzies is definitely worth toking your way through—especially the John's OG!

Located at 1111 Camino Del Rio #5.


The friendly crew at Durango Organics.

Greeting the World

Store manager Adam at Durango Organics reports that 300 to 400 customers visit daily—"600 on a busy day," he adds. Locals love the place; it was Durango's first recreational pot store, and the staff of 15 pride themselves on treating every customer "like their good buddy," Adam says. Since Colorado's recreational pot is available to stoners from all over the world, more than a few transactions have required Durango Organics' budtenders to bridge the language gap. The potent and flavorful Girl Scout Cookies is a huge favorite here. So are Grape Stomper Organic and Alaskan Sweet Skunk Organic, grown by skilled gardeners in a warehouse just down the road. Clones are available, too!

Visit durangoorganics.com.



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Lucas and Hunter man the counter at Green Dragon Cannabis.

"The city thought they'd see 25-year-old stoner snowboarders everywhere," Jesse recalls, "but cannabis now spans all demographics."

Enter the Dragon!

Smack in the middle of Aspen's bustling shopping district, Green Dragon Cannabis never slows down. With 20 varieties of bud on the shelves and a genetic library that encompasses 65 strains, the staff of 55 employees here puts the "kind" back in kindness. Red Diesel is a must-smoke for bud hunters, a cross of Panama Red and NYC Diesel that will rock your world. Check out the Green Dragon Cannabis location in nearby Glenwood Springs as well.

Visit greendragoncolorado.com.


K8 has got the goods at Organix of Breckenridge.


Ali guides cannabis consumers at the BCC.

Backcountry Buds

Formerly the Breckenridge Cannabis Club, Backcountry recently moved from Main Street to this pocket of cannabis commerce located on Airport Road. Budtender Ali Nitka says the close proximity to the other shops has stepped up everyone's game. "We want the industry to progress," she says. "Everyone wants to do well, so we all compete with price and quality." Great strains like Flo, Alaskan Ice and AK-48 lure both tourists and locals to Backcountry. Check out their second shop as well; Backcountry has just taken over the Crested Butte Wellness Center.

Visit backcountrycannabis.com.

Exclusively Organix

One of the friendlier shops you'll come across on the Colorado cannabis scene, Organix caters to ski-country stoners, whether they're tourists or locals. Very cool budtenders and friendly dogs greet you here. The organic buds are exquisite, and all of the products sold here come from Organix growrooms exclusively—including 20 strains of herb, 10 varieties of hash, and plenty of assorted edibles, beverages, tinctures, etc. Pro-tip: The Durban Poison here is sensational!

Visit myorganix.com.



Jesse Miller welcomes the tourist crowd in Aspen.

Calling All Demographics!

Tourists account for 90 percent of Leaf Aspen's business, according to owner Jesse Miller. When he opened in 2009, it was Aspen's first medical dispensary. "The city thought they'd see 25-year-old stoner snowboarders everywhere," Jesse recalls, "but cannabis now spans all demographics." The shop does see its share of boarders, but upscale tourists also flock to this comfy, well-appointed shop, which is right next to a high-end jewelry store. As Jesse says, "It's a case of 'When in Rome' ... everybody wants to try Colorado's best!" Terrific buds by Leaf Aspen's growers await you, plus a signature line of vapor pens and marshmallow butterscotch Blondies.

Visit leafaspen.com.

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Chris Hageseth and star grower Corey Buffkin of Green Man Cannabis



Mark, Christian and Max man STASH of Aspen.

Big Weed

Chris Hageseth, the owner of Green Man Cannabis, just penned *Big Weed* (MacMillan). It's the saga of his journey in the cannabis industry—and what a story it's been! With superstar grower Corey Buffkin on the team, Green Man has grabbed a fistful of awards for their strains, including the Ghost Train Haze, which won again in Denver this year for Best *Sativa*. Green Man also won Best *Indica* for Louis XIII. Check out their two Denver locations. *Visit greenmancannabis.com.*

When a dispensary opens its doors right next to the local supermarket, you know that support for cannabis has come a long way.

Get Your Stash!

When a dispensary opens its doors right next to the local supermarket, you know that support for cannabis has come a long way. STASH recently relocated from a neighborhood near Aspen's airport to a downtown storefront adjacent to City Market. (Groceries and ganja are now side by side!) Billing itself as "the best joint in Aspen," STASH offers all-organic merchandise grown naturally in soil. The *sativas* here are especially hot sellers. (You need energy on the slopes!) STASH also runs daily specials on a variety of products. *Visit stashaspen.com.*




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Jordan Smith and Allison Short at the Castle


Budtender Heather will advise you at Fremont County Cannabis.

Rocky Mountain Castle

Jordan Smith is the senior regional director for Rocky Mountain High, a hard-charging chain of dispensaries with locations statewide. The business necessitates her being on the road two weeks each month. Here in Durango, Jordan is getting a brand-new location on its feet: Rocky Mountain High just moved into a gorgeous house located on a hill at the edge of town. Built in the 1940s, it's known locally as "the Castle" and boasts a luxurious wood interior that imparts a sense of serenity—none of the hustle and bustle of other shops. Jordan predicts that the store will be a huge hit: "It's all about the image we put out there .... We're in Four Corners country," she adds. "We get people from Utah and Arizona, and New Mexico's just 20 minutes away." Allison manages the new store, which is stocked with some 20 strains and a full range of cannabis products. If you're headed north from Durango, visit Rocky Mountain High in Carbondale—a snug little shop with great nugs.
Visit rockymountainhigh.co.

All Natural

Josh Shipman, a frequent *High Times* contributor, oversees the high-altitude greenhouses of Fremont County Cannabis in Buena Vista. Taking advantage of the natural resources that come with the site, his team uses geothermal techniques to heat, cool and water all parts of their grow op. Josh is obsessed with reducing the carbon footprint involved in growing great ganja. The fruits of his obsession are available at the Fremont County Cannabis store in Cañon City—a great menu of *sativas* and *indicas* offering some of Colorado's lowest prices!
Visit fremontcountycannabis.com.


Maggie's Farm in Manitou Springs

High on the Farm

Bob Dylan famously sang: "I ain't gonna work on Maggie's farm no more." Now we know why: It's a lot better shopping at Maggie's Farm than working on it! Maggie's Farm has three recreational shops in Pueblo, but the store in Manitou Springs—on the border of populous Colorado Springs, which doesn't allow recreational sales—is arguably the busiest shop in Colorado. It's jammin' every day of the week, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with multiple budtenders and a wide, wonderful assortment of Colorado cannabis products. The Maggie's Farm cultivation brain trust takes great pride in their seed-grown, 100 percent organic, sungrown, slow-cured, hand-trimmed product. Get high in the nearby Garden of the Gods once you're packing!
Visit maggiesfarmmarijuana.com.




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Denver's Native Roots keeps assistant manager Courtney hopping

Rooting for Success

It's mid-afternoon Friday in downtown Denver, and Native Roots is teeming with customers attempting to whittle down their choice of weed to one whoppingly good strain. It's a tough decision to make—and most of the people making it are tourists. Native Roots is situated amid the upscale downtown hotels. "We get over 60 percent tourist business," says assistant manager Courtney. "Out of state, out of country—we're consistently busy." You see men in suits buying buds for the weekend, snowboarders on their way to the slopes, hippies, hipsters—everybody's here! Native Roots also provides a massive variety of high-quality flowers, drinks, edibles, topicals, hash-oil concentrates and extracts, apparel and accessories. And with Native Roots locations statewide, you're always high in the Rockies. *Visit nativeroots303.com.*


The Clinic's GM Ryan Cook has his hands full of Cups!

Puttin' on a Clinic!

That's what success at the plate is called in baseball lingo—and the Clinic is puttin' on a clinic! This top chain of dispensaries has won multiple Cannabis Cups and has never shied from pushing its brand forward. The company runs the Clinic Lab for its signature extractions and The Bank to market its genetics. And by the end of the year, the Clinic's award-winning buds will be available in four Denver locations.

These days, the Clinic is expanding east and west. In Nevada, they've been granted licenses for cultivation, production and a dispensary in Clark County, where Las Vegas is located. They hold the same licenses in Reno, and within six months will have fully functioning facilities there. In Illinois, the Clinic is on the ground floor of the fledgling industry, with three licenses for cultivation centers already granted. Expect to see the Clinic everywhere! *Visit thecliniccolorado.com.*




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Extraction expert Derek Cummings makes Incredibles—well—incredible!


Rachel measures out some medicine at Mile High Green Cross.

Indubitably Incredible

The edibles industry has experienced a transformation over the last decade, primarily because food-industry professionals are joining our ranks. That would be the Incredibles team, makers of quality, handcrafted, cannabis-infused edibles, who bring expertise in food creation as well as professionally slick packaging. Add some of the purest in-house hash oil, green butter and bubble hash in the industry, and everybody wants a taste! Each batch of Incredibles oil is tested so that you know exactly what you're ingesting. The Monkey Bar, Boulder Bar, Strawberry Crunch and Blueberry Bliss have a total 100 mg of THC per bar—that's 8.3 mg per square, so you can dose all day long. The Mile High Bar packs a whopping 175 mg THC, while the Fireberry Bar and Mile Higher Bar both boast an incredible 300 mg THC—and they're available in dispensaries everywhere!

Visit incrediblescolorado.com.

The edibles industry has experienced a transformation over the last decade, primarily because food-industry professionals are joining our ranks.

Waiting on Rec

When Mile High Green Cross goes recreational, the world will get to sample its absolutely kick-ass pot. Right now, the 5-year-old dispensary serves medical patients only, but owner Leif is seeking a recreational permit and has a 22,000-square-foot facility ready to be outfitted as the company farm. Mile High has already won Best *Indica* and Best Hybrid—for Banana Kush and Sour Grape, respectively—at the first Denver Cup back in 2011. The present dispensary on Broadway is a laid-back shop, warm and inviting, with plenty of exposed brick walls.

Visit milehighgreencross.com.

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Brooke Gehring Live Green's Edgewater store


Ralph Morgan and Tim Cullen partnered up to create O.pen.VAPE

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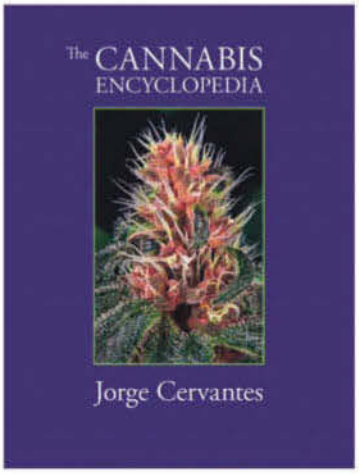
Brooke Gehring, managing owner of the Live Green chain of dispensaries, is smart and methodical and tries to keep her eye on the big picture. She and her partners opened the first Patients Choice dispensary in 2009. Now they have four stores—in Denver, Edgewater and Morrison, plus a medical-only shop in Lakewood. But with three recreational shops now operating, Patients Choice has morphed into Live Green, which means their great ganja is available to everyone. Definitely check out Live Green's Death Star, Blue Dream and Tahoe OG. Brooke and her team concentrate on providing great service and vigilantly tending their single warehouse garden, a 24/7 grow op. The process of rebranding includes making Patients Choice the label for a line of medical cannabis products. "We're expanding concurrent with our growth and not overreaching," Brooke says. "We have a loyal customer base and no debt."

Visit patientschoiceofcolorado.com.

Marijuana Merger

Tim Cullen's a former biology teacher and Ralph Morgan comes from the health industry. Both had dispensaries and grow ops. Upon meeting each other in 2009, they joined forces to become a stronger entity, but also to fulfill what they saw as the industry's need for a consistently dosed, organically extracted cannabis oil. The result has been their own licensed extraction technology, called Organa Labs and O.pen.VAPE, their company that manufactures a line of vapor pens that feature a variety of injectable cartridges from which consumers can select their favorite cannabis strain of cannabis oil. Tim and Ralph now operate a small empire encompassing dispensaries, grow ops to stock them, vapor pens and extraction labs for other states with medical marijuana programs.

Visit openvape.com, organalabs.com or coloradoharvestcompany.com for dispensary listings.

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Our national holiday of 4/20 was celebrated around the world, nowhere more emphatically than in Denver.

Mile-High Jubilee

This year, 4/20 fell on a Monday, so High Times threw a three-day-long party to mark the occasion. More than 50,000 people celebrated legal cannabis at our biggest Cup yet. *By Mary Jane Gibson*



Cannabis Cups and medals were awarded to outstanding edibles, concentrates and flowers.

KIM SIDWELL (2)


As 4:20 neared, an emcee revved up the crowd at the MMJ America booth.


Charlo Greene was on hand representing Alaska.


New grow technology was on display.



MMJ America's Jake Salazar launched T-shirts.



Scott of Rare Dankness was stoked.



The Clinic provided jugglers and stilt walkers.

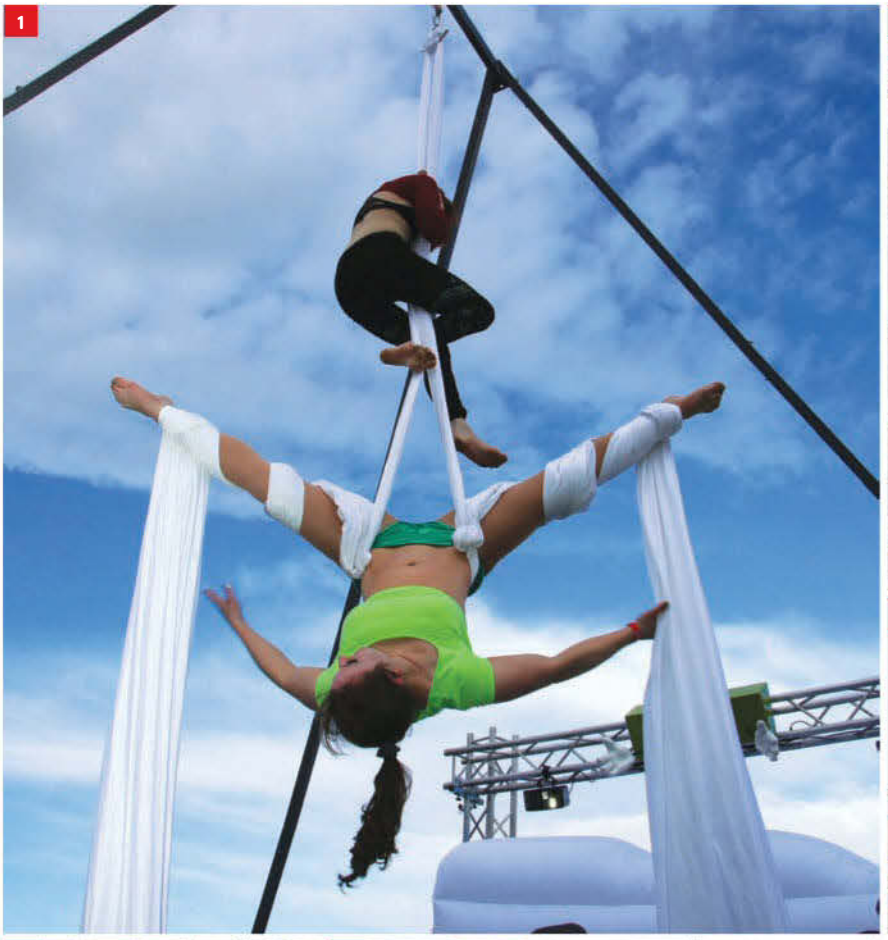
Mother Nature showed her spring spirit over those three days, with roaring winds, snow and icy temps melting at last into a sun-soaked, irie afternoon for the biggest 4/20 Cup smokeout we've yet to see. The frosted Rocky Mountain peaks seemed to nod their assent as a haze wafted over the recreating areas, the bass thump of music pulsing through the crowd like a unifying heartbeat. When the clock struck 4:20 that Monday afternoon, a joyful cheer praising freedom went up. And with the tens of thousands of people currently incarcerated for nonviolent, marijuana-only offenses firmly in mind, High Times chose that day to launch its Free Pot Prisoners campaign. The petition asks newly-minted Attorney General Loretta Lynch and California Attorney General Kamala Harris to release the long-suffering prisoners of the war on marijuana. The



A Rocky Mountain High hostess welcomed Cup-goers.

KIM SIDWELL (4), DAN SKYE (3)


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1. Aerial silk artists wowed the crowd at the Magical Butter booth. 2. As always, an array of colorful glass smokeware enticed stoners. 3. Cultivation editor at large Nico Escondido lectured on light. 4. Cotton candy was free, courtesy of The Clinic. 5. The Lazy Lion of Colorado Springs showed off their merchandise. 6. Extra-long joints for extra-big hits were essential at 4:20.

irony of their ongoing imprisonment was keenly felt that April afternoon. High Times asks that you show your support for pot prisoners by signing the petition online at *bit.ly/420Freedom*.

Tens of thousands of people came to the Denver Cup to freely celebrate the herb, listen to seminars, check out grow systems, lighting, glass and more at hundreds of booths, and rub shoulders with cannabis-industry celebs and marijuana aficionados from across the nation. Some people opted for a one-day pass to take in the sights, while others elected to get the full weekend package. VIP ticket holders were treated to shorter lines, gift bags, and their own special RAW lounge area, replete with snacks, drinks, a ping-pong table and an oxygen bar. Those who really wanted to immerse themselves in the Cup experience could do so with an all-access Super VIP or top-tier Gold Leaf pass, which included all kinds of

DAN SKYE (6)

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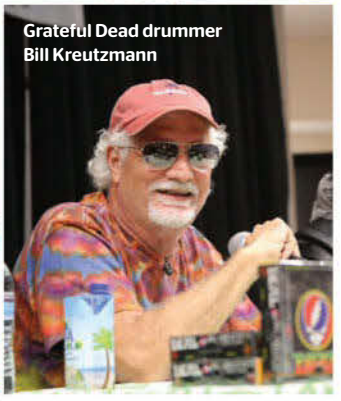
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The Cup crowd erupted with cheers as doors opened on Saturday.



The panel dealing with veterans' issues received a standing ovation.



Grateful Dead drummer Bill Kreutzmann

goodies, meet and greets with *High Times* staff, a private cooking seminar with edibles expert Elise McDonough, a High Society lounge with massages and other treats, VIP access to Cup concerts, and much more.

Standing-room-only seminars featured grow experts like Jorge Cervantes premiering his new book *The Cannabis Encyclopedia*, Danny Danko's popular *Free Weed* podcast, and Nico Escondido with tips on how to light your growroom. *HT* managing editor Jen Bernstein led a discussion of pot jobs in the cannabusiness industry. The future of American legalization was considered by legal eagles and activists, including Keith Stroup (NORML), Mason Tvert (Marijuana Policy Project), and Alaska's Charlo Greene, who famously quit her TV reporter job on-air last year, and now runs a cannabis club in Anchorage. The military veterans panel, moderated by Bobby Black, was particularly moving as vets spoke forcefully about the positive impact cannabis treatment has had on their lives.

On the eve of 4/20, the Cannabis Cup awards show played to a packed house. It was a star-studded, atmospheric affair, with Broken Lizard, the comedy group behind *Super Troopers*, serving as emcees. After invigorating the crowd with some weedtastic jokes, they ceded the stage for special



DAN SKYE (3)


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Snoop Dogg added to the weekend's high spirits.



Danny Danko and the newly crowned Miss HT Dani Green Fox



Native Roots rocked a double-decker booth.

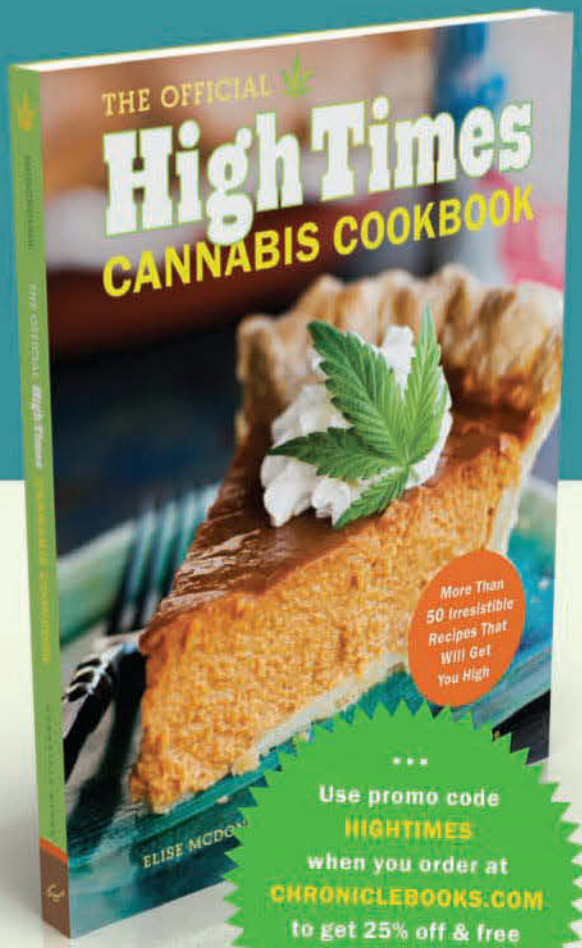
guests Ras Iyah V and Triston Thompson of Jamaica, who joined *HT*'s Rick Cusick to announce the inaugural High Times World Cannabis Cup in Negril this November. As the room got distinctly hazier following that happy news, a legend ascended to the stage: Bill Kreutzmann, representing his bandmates as the Grateful Dead were inducted into the High Times Counterculture Hall of Fame. Jerry Garcia's daughter Trixie joined Kreutzmann to accept the honor, as Jen Bernstein paid homage to the festival roots that Cannabis Cups share with the Deadhead community's legendary Shakedown Street, pointing out that many a quintessential strain of weed originated from seeds procured in the parking lot of a Dead show.

As per tradition, our 420 Cannabis Cup awards show included the Miss High Times mini-pageant, wherein Dani Green Fox was crowned. Dani's been a familiar face at HT events as part of the Dab Stars crew—a stoner lifestyle and promotions company she created and co-owns with her significant other Jonah Tacoma, who takes his name from the city in which they live.

"The response from the people of the Pacific Northwest has been great," Dani says. "They're really proud to have the title in Washington State, and I am honored to



KIM SIDWELL, MARK JANUARY (2)



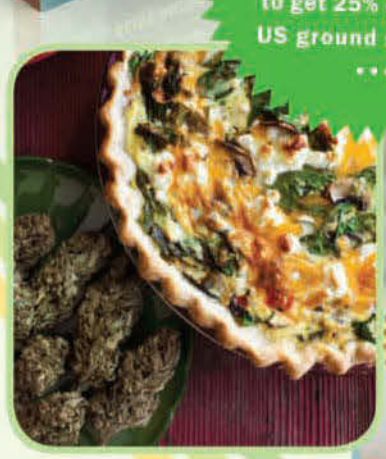
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Broken Lizard presented two awards.


Master grower Corey Buffkin celebrates winning Best U.S. *Indica* for Green Man Cannabis.

be their representative. As Miss High Times I intend to raise the bar for my successor and hope that she'll do the same for hers."

The weekend featured not one, but *two* all-star concerts, hosted by MMJ America and High Times, with J Boog, Nas and SOJA bringing soul-deep good vibes to the Red Rocks amphitheater on a wild and stormy Saturday night, and 2 Chainz, A$AP Rocky and Snoop Dogg electrifying Fiddler's Green on 4/20.

Despite a last-minute memo from Colorado's Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED) stating that no licensed Colorado marijuana retailer would be permitted to sell or give away flowers, concentrates or other cannabis products, there was plenty of bud on hand to be enjoyed by all. A steady stream of buses brought pot shoppers to stores along the Freedom Trail, where they could purchase bud legally, and then delivered them safely to the Denver Mart where they could recreate freely with thousands of like-minded cannasseurs. The MED was on hand throughout the weekend to observe the peaceful assembly, and they saw that the Cannabis Cup was a great success. Next year, High Times hopes to have special dispensation from the MED that will allow all retailers and vendors to share flowers and other product freely. As we continue to work towards nationwide marijuana legalization, and we take the Cannabis Cup to Oregon, Jamaica and beyond, High Times is grateful for the support of our community—all of you growers, retailers, activists and consumers. We couldn't do it without you. We'll see you next year, Denver!



MARK JANUARY KIM SIDWELL

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HIGH TIMES US CANNABIS CUP

Winners of Colorado 2015

BEST COLORADO *SATIVA* FLOWER
1st Place - Ghost Train Haze - Green Man Cannabis
2nd Place - Sweet Silver Haze - Rocky Mountain High
3rd Place - Pootie Tang - Starbuds

BEST US *SATIVA* FLOWER
1st Place - Ghost Train Haze #13 - Greenway Las Vegas
2nd Place - Veganic Strawberry Cough - Private Stock for Buds & Roses of LA
3rd Place - Green Crack - Christopher Stine

BEST COLORADO *INDICA* FLOWER
1st Place - Louis XIII - Green Man Cannabis
2nd Place - Colorado Bubba - MMJ America Boulder
3rd Place - Black Fire - Docs Apothecary in collaboration with the Ethos Collective

BEST US *INDICA* FLOWER
1st Place - Grand Daddy Purps - Herbal Healing
2nd Place - Kosher Kush - Greenwolf LA with Kushco
3rd Place - DaVinci OG - Greenwolf LA with Ghost Crow

BEST COLORADO HYBRID FLOWER
1st Place - Kong - Allgreens
2nd Place - Starkiller - Green Man Cannabis
3rd Place - OG KB Cookies - MMJ America Downtown

BEST US HYBRID FLOWER
1st Place - T.S.T. Cookies - Greenwolf and Top Shelf Terps
2nd Place - Cali Kush Farms Emperor Cookie Dough - Greenwolf LA
3rd Place - Mega Wellness OG - The Wellness Earth Energy Dispensary with Nameless Genetics

BEST NON-SOLVENT HASH
1st Place - Cookies and Cream Cubantech Drysift - Exotic Genetix
2nd Place - Strawberry Banangieland 120-73u - Trichome Heavy Extracts with G.C. Rebellion Farms, Greenwolf LA and DNA
3rd Place - Kimbo Kush Cubantech Drysift - Cuban Hash Queen with Exotic Genetix

BEST *SATIVA* CONCENTRATE
1st Place - Tangie #17 - Gold Coast Extracts
2nd Place - Top Shelf Terps Tangie - Top Shelf Terps with Greenwolf LA by Nature's Lab Extracts
3rd Place - Tangie Shatter - AU Extracts

BEST *INDICA* CONCENTRATE
1st Place - Crown OG Sugar - Greenwolf LA/ Nature's Lab Extracts/Crown OG
2nd Place - Space Valley OG (Fresh Frozen) - Pink House with Incredibles
3rd Place - Kush Company OG Live Resin Batter - Kush Company with Nature's Lab Extracts and the W.E.E.D. Studio City

BEST HYBRID CONCENTRATE
1st Place - B Mega Wellness OG - Nameless Genetics with The Weed of Studio City
2nd Place - Crown OG Crumble - Greenwolf LA/Nature's Lab Extracts/Crown OG
3rd Place - Skywalker OG Kush - Dab Vader/ Vader Extracts

BEST EDIBLE
1st Place - Bubba Kush Root Beer 100mg - Keef Cola Signature
2nd Place - Affagato Bar - Incredibles
3rd Place - Orange Creamsicle Creampop - Sacred Sweets with Trichome Heavy Extractions in a collaborative effort with DNA

BEST TOPICAL
1st Place - Angel Salve - Champion Cannabis with Evolab
2nd Place - HIGHGASM - Genusys Compounds and Essences
3rd Place - Foria Pleasure - Foria

BEST CBD FLOWER
1st Place - Tora Bora - MMJ America
2nd Place - The Nubia - Aficionado/ FreeBorn Selections
3rd Place - Sleeping Giant - Elemental Seeds

BEST CBD CONCENTRATE
1st Place - OG Tonic - The Smokers Club in collaboration with Garden of Weedn
2nd Place - Cannatonic - Natural Mystic Cannabis Caregivers
3rd Place - Industrial Hemp CBD Extract - ISODIOL S.A.

BEST CBD EDIBLE
1st Place - 160 mg Banana Pudding Bar - ShumMet(TM) Bars in collaboration with Foxtracts
2nd Place - Rockies CBD Enriched Premium Protein Bar - TC Labs/TC Treats
3rd Place - Cherry Drops Tincture - Great Lakes Hemp Supplements

BEST BOOTH
1st Place - Vader Extracts
2nd Place - Rx Green Solutions / The Ethos Collective
3rd Place - The Green Solution

BEST PRODUCT
1st Place - Moxie Mix - Vader Extracts
2nd Place - Cloud V - Cloud V
3rd Place - Oil Slick - Oil Slick

BEST GLASS ART
1st Place - Qbert - Vader Extracts / Freeek / Pinky
2nd Place - Mothership Glass - Beehive Concentrates
3rd Place - Hitman Glass - Hitman Glass

BEST VAPORIZER
1st Place - 710 King Pen - Loud Pack Extracts
2nd Place - Cloud V - Cloud V
3rd Place - Incredibowl Milkshake Machine - Incredibowl Red Eye Saloon

PEOPLE'S CHOICE FLOWERS
1st Place - Cindy White - The Green Solution
2nd Place - GRiZ Kush - Native Roots
3rd Place - Bubba Kush - The Clinic Colorado

PEOPLE'S CHOICE CONCENTRATES
1st Place - Sour Diesel Shatter - The Green Solution
2nd Place - Kosher Kush Live Resin Butter - The Clinic Colorado
3rd Place - Orange Herijuana Shatter - Native Roots

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GROWING Big in Oregon

The author of *The Secrets of the West Coast Masters* reveals tips and tricks to getting the most out of each and every pot plant you grow, including his own techniques for providing air circulation at the canopy level for monster greenhouse yields.

Story by Dru West. Photos by Dabmaster Jay

IS BIGGER BETTER?

Does the overall quality and potency of the flower decrease as the size and yield of the plant increases? In other words, do small plants produce better buds? Apparently, there's an old wives' tale insisting this is the case, but my own stance has always been that larger plants are superior simply because that's how they grow naturally. But it's tough to confirm this indoors, so I've been on the lookout for a proper greenhouse with which to prove my point. I wanted to conclusively answer two questions: How large can a potted cannabis plant become, and does potency increase or decrease with plant size and yield?

In Oregon, a medical marijuana patient can grow up to six plants—but there's no restriction on just how large they can be. So, last spring, using only one medical marijuana card, I decided to grow six plants as huge as I possibly could in a 28' x 48' greenhouse located in the high desert of Central Oregon. For this project, I chose four of my most potent strains: the Tahoe OG from Cali Connection, the White Russian from Serious Seeds, Jack the Ripper from TGA Seeds and my clone-only Headband cut. They'd already been growing indoors for about six weeks and were in 15-gallon pots at the time they were brought to the greenhouse.



Each plant grows into a massive bush when roots are given enough room to spread out.



Constant pruning results in bushy plants with many budding sites.



Ladders are a necessity when working with tall plants.


Each branch is trained into its own square of screen.

ON THE GRID

In order to support the weight of what I hoped would be massive plants, I had to first construct multiple tiers of "screen of green" (ScrOG) netting. I used bamboo stakes and zip ties to construct an overhead grid system strong enough to do the job without damaging the frame of the greenhouse. This turned out to be the most important step, without which the plants would have been completely unmanageable—by the end, they would have simply toppled over without added support from the ScrOG.

For newcomers, "screen of green" is a growing technique that uses netting to spread out the canopy of the plants and then provides support to their branches once they've started packing on bud weight. When a plant feels the stress of a branch in danger of breaking, it will slow down that branch's bud production as a matter of self-preservation. If the branch is given extra support, the plant is free to continue loading it with buds until the grow cycle is finished, provided that all other conditions are favorable.

After my netting was up, the already large plants had to be transplanted from their 15-gallon pots into 150-gallon Smart Pots. The position and spacing of the plants was a huge consideration at this point, because once they were transplanted into those giant pots, there was no way we'd be able to move or reposition them again. We had to give them plenty of room to grow, but also reserve enough space to easily maneuver around them. Each plant was allotted a 12' x 12' space, which by the end allowed just enough room to move around on ladders between them.

TRANSPLANT TIME

Getting the heavy soil and root mass out of one pot and into the other without it falling apart was a nerve-racking experience, to say the least. You just have to hope that the stalk is strong enough and the roots healthy enough to hold all the soil together. Too much moisture and it'll be too heavy; yet the drier the soil is, the more likely it is to crumble apart. Transplanting your plants is a delicate procedure that requires precise timing. Once the process was complete, large bamboo stakes were used to secure the plants in place while we waited for them to reach the first layer of ScrOG netting.

The following month was pretty slow going, as the plants were acclimating to their new surroundings and their roots were spreading through the giant 150-gallon pots. Then, around the Fourth of July, they suddenly began to explode in size. Each plant's branches would grow up to 3 or 4 inches in a single day. This marked the beginning of a very intense training and pruning regimen.


Working from below the canopy.

TRAINING DAY

The cannabis plant is very sensitive to its surroundings and will send extra growth hormones to the highest branches in its canopy. It does this because the most elevated branches have the best chance of catching pollen, thus fulfilling the goal of the plant's reproductive cycle. This explains the Christmas-tree look of most untrained plants, where there is one large bud at the top and several smaller buds of decreasing size below it. If you train all of the branches in the canopy to be level with one another, the plant won't choose any favorites and the buds will grow larger and more uniformly.

Jack the Ripper



HIGH TIMES

PURPLE FROST

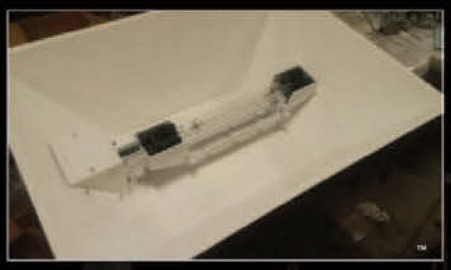





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As the plants got taller, the netting was used to spread out their branches and distribute them evenly, each to its own space. The openings in my ScrOG netting were 6" x 6" squares; in a 12' x 12' area, there are 576 of these spaces. My goal was to fill each one with its own branch, which would ultimately become a massive cola. We achieved that result and then some. I wanted to show that the ScrOG technique is equally beneficial outdoors and that growing your plants like this can make it much easier to control issues like mold, powdery mildew and pests without compromising yields.

Despite all the training and bending, the plants continued growing for about eight weeks, until they were somewhere from 14 to 15 feet tall. The three layers of ScrOG netting that we'd installed weren't enough to contain them; we had to add a fourth layer while we still had the chance, in anticipation of the giant buds to come. All of the growth below the first layer of netting was removed, and all of the smaller underside branches that didn't receive light were taken off as well. We also pruned the plants until all that remained were about 600 soon-to-be colas of varying sizes, depending on the strain.

WATER WORLD

I decided to hand-water the plants, as opposed to using a drip-feed system, because it gives you more up-close and personal time with them and can help you better understand their feeding habits, ultimately keeping them happier. When growing outdoors, one of the biggest challenges is keeping plants healthy the entire season, especially if they're in pots and not in the ground. At harvest time, these plants were nearly eight months old, and the only way to keep them healthy that long is to keep both the soil and their roots happy. But the more you automate the feeding process, the less attention is paid to the soil.

The plants had different needs and were fed accordingly to achieve maximum potential.

The plants also had different needs and were fed accordingly to achieve maximum potential. Organic nutrients were added twice a week, as well as a generous scoop of beneficial mycorrhizal fungi to keep the roots happy. Watering by hand turned out to be a lot of work, but I think it was worth it.

Once the buds started forming, the only things left to do were to water and inspect the plants daily for bugs and powdery mildew. Store-bought nutrients are not formulated or tested for plants this size, so once a week we foliar-fed them with a medium-strength seaweed-extract solution to supplement all the nutrients they were using to achieve such rapid growth. This kept the plants nice and green up until the last three weeks, when we began the flush.

FLUSHED OUT

I figured that plants this size could use an extra-long flush, since they'd been building up nutrients for the last six months. We ran 100 gallons of pH-adjusted (5.8) water through each pot every other day for the first week and then continued to feed them straight water for the remainder. Over the last few weeks, the buds grew noticeably larger and frostier every day. Finally, a week before Halloween, the plants were ready to begin harvesting.

REAPING THE RESULTS

The first to be harvested was the White Russian. It boasted some of the biggest buds in the entire greenhouse: Most were the size of my forearm, while the lower ones looked like pinecones. The scent was a sweet, woody citrus with a clean lemon undertone. However, buds that big

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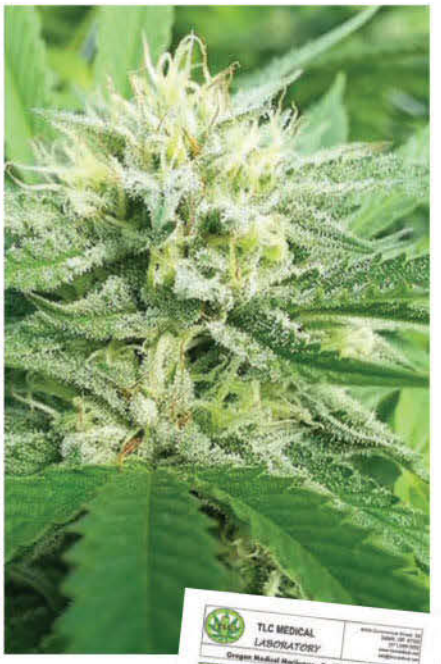
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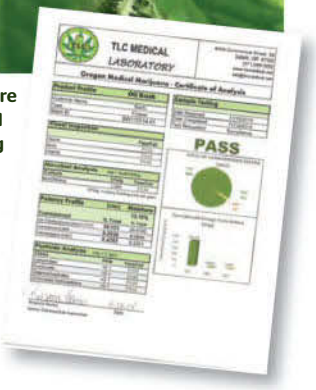
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From above, no screen is visible due to heavy colas.





Frosty nuggets are the result of hard work. Lab testing revealed high levels of THC.

can actually be dangerous to the plant, since they're so much more susceptible to bud rot. We got really lucky, as we lost only about an ounce to the dreaded botrytis. This is one case where a dry climate can be advantageous.

Next to come down were the three Tahoe OGs. They definitely had the frostiest buds in the room—not huge ones like the White Russian, since most were the size of golf balls, but they were densely packed and there seemed to be a million of them. (Luckily, it's an easy strain to trim or we would've been at it for weeks.) I prefer the Tahoe to many of the other OG varieties because it has a much milder scent and flavor that to me is just so much more satisfying. This was the bud I was most eager to smoke.

The Headband was up next. When we brought the plants outside, this was the smallest one, but it didn't take long to catch up to the others, and by harvest time it was actually the largest. The buds were very impressive: They grew like giant spears about the width of a soda can. Headband is one of those strains you either love or hate, as it reeks of dead fish, road kill and petrol—one of those smells that, if you encountered it in nature, you would never consider a good thing. I happen to love it, but apparently the neighbors didn't. Also, the cold nights in late October caused the leaves to take on deep purple and pink hues. It was something I'd never experienced with the Headband grown indoors, so I was really excited.

The last plant to come down was Jack the Ripper. The odor on this one was nearly overpowering: The slightest agitation of the plant would fill the entire greenhouse with the smell of sweet, limey shoe polish. The JTR was always the slowest grower and the last to start budding, although once the budding did begin, it nearly caught up with the rest. At just over six pounds, it turned out to be the smallest-yielding plant. But Jack the Ripper has never been known for heavy yields; its flavor and medicinal quality are what make it so desirable.

LET IT DRY

Drying such an enormous amount of bud—as well as figuring out how to process the trim in a secure way—took some planning. I rented a big moving truck for a couple of weeks and hung up some eight-tier mesh drying racks with a dehumidifier. Then I decided to set up my closed-loop extractor and vacuum oven in there as well. This allowed me to process the trim onsite while I waited for the buds to finish being trimmed and dried.

By the time everything was wrapped up, it was clear that the project had been a huge success. My question about whether or not this training method would yield well has certainly been answered. The White Russian, Headband and three Tahoe OGs were nearly identical in yield, at around eight pounds per plant (not counting the small lower buds that were reserved for making oil). These numbers could be increased dramatically with the right strains: As I mentioned earlier, I chose my most potent strains, not my best-yielding ones.

LAB TESTING

I was very pleased with the finished product: The bud's overall quality and appearance were indistinguishable from some of my finest indoor. All that was left was to turn some samples over to the lab for analysis.

All of the samples passed inspection for mold, mildew and pesticides, which I attribute largely to the style in which I trained and pruned the plants. Many of the farmers who grow their plants in the conventional round, bushy style are often plagued with powdery mildew and bud rot due to the poor ventilation created by all that thick foliage. It's definitely better to redirect those side branches up to the canopy, where they'll be level with the rest.

We also had the samples tested for potency, and the results were conclusive: Each sample came back consistent with the best results from the same strain grown indoors. And one sample really stood out: The THC content of the Tahoe OG came back at a staggering 28.9%. This, combined with the other results, absolutely proves to me that a plant's potency isn't affected by its size. I encourage everyone to grow your plants as large as you possibly can, because in this case, bigger is indeed better!

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The Sun Rises on Hemp

Hemp has traveled a circular path over the past 80 years. It once grew on American farms from coast to coast, but then became a casualty of the early War on Drugs. Thanks to pro-marijuana initiatives across the nation, however, a new age of hemp is at hand.

By Rick Thompson. Photos by Dan Skye

In a rough part of Toledo, Ohio, a man drinks a cup of coffee and stares out the window of his retail store, waiting for the old people to come.

And the elderly do come. Every day. "The seniors, they love their hemp medicines," Kevin Spitler tells me. "They know you can't get high from hemp."

Spitler is the founder and CEO of the Toledo Hemp Center, a retail store specializing in consumer goods made from strains of the cannabis plant containing ultra-low amounts of THC, legally referred to as "hemp." These include the strong cup of hemp coffee (three-quarters coffee, one-quarter ground hemp seed) that gets him going in the morning, and the creams, ointments and topical treatments for arthritis that keep the seniors coming back.

The Toledo Hemp Center has 1,500 members, of whom 1,200 are elderly, Spitler says. That's a very appropriate



ratio, given that America's rediscovery of hemp is a fitting end to an 80-year-long story: "Everything old is new again!" And hemp medicines are just the tip of the green iceberg when it comes to the commercial opportunities posed by the reintroduction of the cannabis plant into American society.

The Banishment of Hemp

The hemp plant was one of the first crops to be cultivated by humankind. Europeans brought their hemp plants to America sometime around 1545, and by the early 1600s, it was being cultivated in the Jamestown colony. "Every farmer grew it," says hemp advocate and historian Steven Sharpe. "Hemp was critical to the survival of the colonies."

Hemp's significance in American agriculture only grew in the years after independence, when the nation became one of the world's largest hemp producers. In 1938, *Popular Mechanics* magazine declared that new technology for hemp production could push its economic potential in America to over $1 billion.

Unfortunately, America would realize no such return on hemp. Because the Latin name *Cannabis sativa* is applied to both the industrial hemp plant and smokable ganja, it was easy for fearmongers in the 1900s to demand the prohibition of both. By 1933, a total of 33 states had banned all uses of cannabis other than industrial and medical. And in 1937, cannabis was outlawed altogether under the Marihuana Tax Act. The last hemp crop of the 20th century was laid to rest in 1957.

There's plenty of blame to go around for hemp's untimely demise. You can point the finger at industrialists and their government stooges, but scientists share some of the blame, too.

Imagine if all the dogs in the poodle breed were designated by scientists as being as exactly the same. Standard poodles, miniature poodles, fancy poodles—all identified as the exact same dog. You know they're different, and when they breed, they produce different results—and yet scientists refused to acknowledge that they're different twigs on the same branch of the doggy tree of life. That's been the story of hemp in America for the last 80 years.

The Genus of Confusion

Hemp is still considered taxonomically identical to, but genetically dissimilar from, marijuana. That fuzzy association between the different branches of the *Cannabis* genus frustrates many to this day. The illegal marijuana plant identified as a Schedule I drug on the federal list of controlled substances is called *Cannabis sativa*—but so is the legal hemp plant discussed in the 2013 Department of Agriculture bill.

So what is hemp, and how does it differ from marijuana? Whether you prefer using the plant's scientific nomenclature or chemical content to decide, there's still no agreement. A 2000 study suggested renaming hemp and marijuana varieties based on the geographical origin of the plant type—a process that would turn *sativas* into *indicas* but leave out *ruderalis* altogether.

THE WIDE WORLD OF HEMP

Here are just a few of the products being manufactured these days with hemp.



Skateboards
Lotus Boards uses 30 percent hemp fiber combined with traditional plastics for its skateboards.



Snowboards
Lucky Snowboards offers a line of snow gear made with sustainable bamboo, poplar and hemp materials.



Tennis shoes
Adidas makes several types of tennis shoe with hemp uppers, notably the Snoop Lion Seely edition.



Liquor
From Czech absinthe to vodka and beer, a new age of hemp-infused potables is upon us.



Airplanes
The Canadian firm Hempearth is producing an airplane with up to 75 percent of its weight composed of hemp plastics.



Ice cream
From Cool Hemp to the Hemptations line of products, non-dairy desserts have a hemp attitude.



Cars
The Kestrel, a Canadian automobile, has an impact-resistant body made from hemp (and reaches speeds up to 90 kph).



Houses
Hempcrete is a hemp-enhanced building material that can be formed into bricks and cement slabs.



Purses
Sativabags.com and other outlets offer a huge variety of purses, backpacks and rucksacks made from tough, durable hemp fabric.



Medicine & Health
Hemp-based supplements are popular across the nation, including hemp powders, hemp pills and hemp-infused foods.



In Ontario, Canada, hemp crops are harvested annually.

Getting the names right is an important issue, one that the White House has taken up: Its Subcommittee on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics created a unique database of plant classifications called the Integrated Taxonomic Information System. The database was developed due to the need for "improvements in the organization of, and access to, standardized nomenclature." Per ITIS, the genus, species and subspecies called *Cannabis sativa* comprise both marijuana and hemp plants. Three subspecies of cannabis are listed in the database as "marijuana": *indica*, *sativa* and a variant, *Cannabis spontanea*. Hemp is listed as being both *indica* and *sativa*, with no recognized variants.

Well, that's certainly clear—as mud.

The chemical definition of hemp is easier to understand and to measure, but within the United States, there is no universal standard for hemp's THC content. The 2013 Department of Agriculture bill identifies hemp as containing less than 0.3 percent THC measured as dry weight. Fifteen states have adopted this definition.

The Congressional Research Service, in a January 2015 report, offered a slightly different standard: "THC levels in hemp are generally less than 1 percent." The states of Kentucky, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia all use a 1 percent THC standard, but Alabama and Iowa define hemp at less than 3 percent THC. No wonder the hemp industry is a challenging place to do business.

However, for the savvy businessperson, the blurred line between marijuana and hemp can be an advantage. Spitler's Toledo Hemp Center uses the initials "THC" for short, even though its proprietor doesn't sell intoxicating varieties of the *Cannabis* genus. "It's a way of marketing and branding the center," he admits.

Planes, Sneakers and Automobiles

Hemp products abound on store shelves. "Skateboards, plastics, biofuels—I have a digital scale with a shell made of hemp," Spitler says. "BMW is making door panels out of hemp. Not in America, of course," he adds, "but we're getting there."

BMW really *does* make door panels out of hemp, and so do other manufacturers. A Canadian company has an airplane in production that replaces traditional fiberglass components with hemp plastics (see sidebar, left). The Kestrel, a car made by a Canadian company, sports hemp body panels. A variety of manufacturers offer tennis shoes made with hemp fabric.

One growing sector of the hemp marketplace is in construction materials, most notably Hempcrete. Mixing hemp with cement to add structure is an ancient trick—but where hemp is concerned, everything we knew has to be rediscovered again.

Worldwide, hemp production is booming: More than 30 countries now grow the plant. Where is hemp farming the biggest? In the one nation that the United States couldn't bully into a treaty-mandated "genus genocide."

"China grows more acres of hemp than anyone else," says Eric Steenstra, executive director of the Hemp Industries Association (HIA). Other major players on the international hemp market include Canada and the European Union nations. Outside the US, hemp

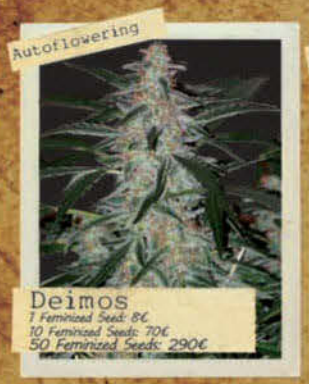
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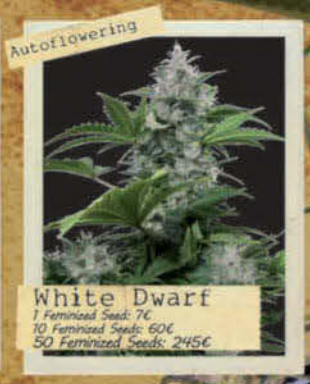
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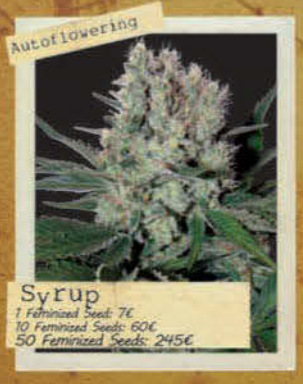
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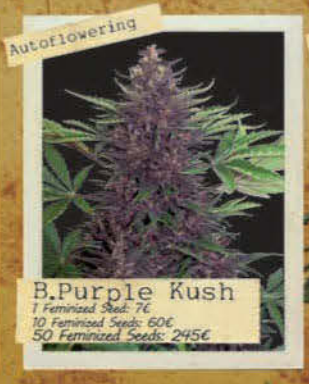
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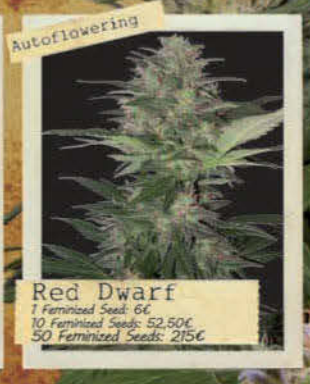




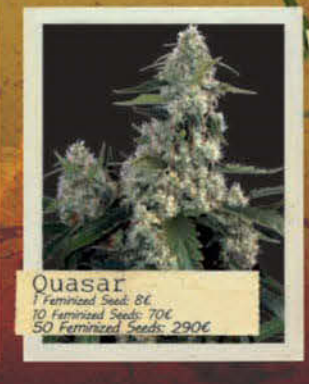


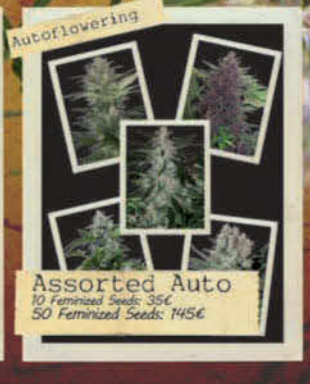












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As the American hemp marketplace grows, entrepreneurs are clamoring to create a domestic supply of the raw material needed to fill that demand.

A hemp harvest in Europe.

production increases annually; inside the US, consumer demand for hemp products grew at a rate of 21 percent in 2014.

According to the HIA, Americans spent $620 million on consumer products made from or containing hemp last year alone—a figure that may be far higher, since a large sector of the retail market, including Costco and Whole Foods, do not report product sales in these categories.

The Toledo Hemp Center specializes in foods and topical medicines, an industry that saw sales of over $200 million last year. Growth in that sector of the hemp economy is "skyrocketing," Steenstra says.

Domestic Production

As the American hemp marketplace grows, entrepreneurs are clamoring to create a domestic supply of the raw material needed to fill that demand—which is not as easy as it sounds. "The DEA is probably the biggest obstacle to growing hemp in America," Steenstra notes.

The US Congress could help. The 2015 Industrial Hemp Farming Act was introduced in both the House and Senate this January; the bill would knock down federal barriers to hemp production and let the states run with it.

Some states haven't been waiting for Congress to act. When Colorado legalized the adult recreational use of marijuana in 2012, it legalized hemp production as well. Ryan Loflin grew a commercial hemp crop in Springfield, Colorado, in 2013, and a new crop is currently underway.

To date, hemp is being cultivated in just three states, while a total of 21 states have passed hemp-farming laws. They can all participate in hemp farming under the provisions of the 2013 Farm Bill. Or can they?

In 2014, 1,831 acres of hemp were licensed in Kentucky, Colorado and Vermont, but the HIA estimates that only 125 acres were actually planted. Federal obstruction when it comes to hemp seeds is the reason for that low production rate. For example, in March of 2014, the DEA seized a shipment of hemp seeds headed to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. "That discouraged a lot of farmers from planting that season," says Lauren Stansbury, communications director for the HIA. The seeds were eventually released and used by Kentuckians, but the damage to 2014's production was done.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture acknowledges this difficulty in its February 2015 memo: "The primary impediment to increasing development and production of industrial hemp in Colorado is the lack of viable industrial hemp seed." As Stansbury notes, "Colorado has a licensing program, but they aren't assisting their farmers in getting seed like Kentucky is doing." (Loflin and the state's other hemp farmers won't discuss where they got their starter seeds.)

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is making good use of that seed stock. A training session for hemp farmers was held this past March at the University of Kentucky, and one especially positive development came from it: permission for the interstate transportation of harvested hemp. Joe Brown's Michigan Hemp Company is licensed to grow hemp on a five-acre plot near Berea, Kentucky. Brown says the DEA gave permission for the crop to be transported to a processing center under construction in Michigan (which is being built in part with Hempcrete bricks). The Michigan Hemp Company will turn those plants into products, which will then be marketed online to the world. "It's a first-of-its-kind arrangement in America," Brown says. "Things are getting better all the time."

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Hemp and Basic Ecology

Considering America's policy of prohibition, it's no surprise that most of the advances in hemp research originate in Asian and European countries. One case in point: phytoremediation, the process of using beneficial plants to draw toxins from contaminated soils. The Italian Institute of Agro-Environmental and Forest Biology refers to hemp as a "mop crop," capable of cleaning impurities from wastewater and phosphorous from farm runoff.

After the Chernobyl nuclear accident, Russia began using sunflowers and mustard species to draw the lead, chromium, copper and nickel from the soil in contaminated parcels. In 1998, the Russians added hemp to that list.

Polish scientist Przemyslaw Baraniecki observed that hemp production and quality aren't impaired by the presence of heavy metals in the soil or water. The Russians harvest three or four hemp crops per season; toxins and heavy metals account for as much as 2 percent of the plants' dry weight after harvest. Meanwhile, in the neighboring nation of Belarus, 85 percent of the children are deemed to be Chernobyl victims. Under their government's proposed remediation program, the harvested hemp would be converted to ethanol.

Phytotech, a company based in Monmouth, New Jersey, coordinated the remediation effort at Chernobyl in the 1990s. It still maintains the plots of mustard and hemp that continue to draw harmful chemicals from the Russian soil nearly 20 years after the event. Certainly, the Fukushima disaster in Japan would be well suited to a hemp-remediation program, but government obstruction has locked this option out.

In ecologically fragile regions, hemp offers a natural solution to ongoing problems like erosion control and wastewater overflow.

Phytotech has used soil-remediation technology with corn and sunflowers at two locations in Ohio, but it hasn't been allowed to use hemp yet. The company has achieved abroad what the US government won't let anyone do domestically: prove that hemp's value extends far beyond commercial or even medical applications.

In ecologically fragile regions, hemp offers a natural solution to ongoing problems like erosion control and wastewater overflow. In deforested areas, hemp can provide a remedy to the problem of topsoil erosion and the silting of rivers.

Spitler believes that hemp is capable of stopping the devastating algal blooms that plague Lake Erie. Thanks to the nutrient-rich runoff from Ohio farmlands, the lake develops green masses during the summer months, which disrupt human activities and kill fish.

"If we had a buffer zone of hemp fields from the Maumee River to Lake Erie," Spitler suggests, "the plants could absorb these chemicals before they get to the waterways. Plus you'd harvest the fields at the end of the growing season—an added economic benefit."

The public is beginning to understand the difference between benign industrial hemp and the also benign (but still controversial) marijuana plant. The distinction is widening, and the two are not considered synonymous any longer.

Ironically, the growing acceptance of marijuana in Western society is opening the door for a return of the hemp industry. Finally, it seems, we can welcome this historic and sustainable commodity back to the US marketplace.



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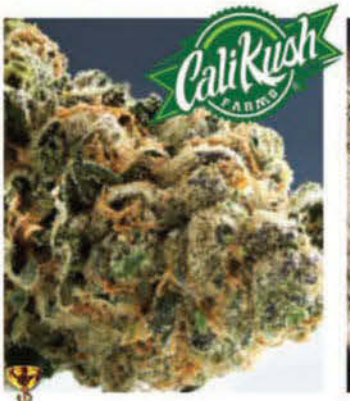
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Legalization: Past, Present & Future



When can we stop protesting? A 1979 rally in Washington, DC

ROY LUSTIG / WASHINGTON POST

Marijuana law reform is huge—you barely make it through a 24-hour news cycle without seeing a story on decriminalization or outright legalization. So it's time to take a look at where we are now, how we got there, and where we're (probably) going. *By Russ Belville*

It's a great time to be a marijuana user. These days, it seems that nothing can halt the spread of legalization nationwide. It's basically inevitable!

Or is it?

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it," wrote George Santayana in 1905's *The Life of Reason*. It's sage advice for anyone high on the prospects of nationwide legalization, for there's an older generation of marijuana activists—dating back to the founding of *High Times* in 1974—who can remember a similar upswing in popular support for marijuana law reform, only to see it grind to a halt with the election of Ronald Reagan and the creation of an energized faction of anti-drug parents' groups.

The current trend of support does seem stronger this time around, but it all hinges on our federal government, which is only keeping its hands off the issue thanks to a few Justice Department memos of guidance and the current administration's prerogative not to enforce the Controlled Substances Act in states that have decided to reform their marijuana laws.

A new president will enter the White House in 2017. How he or she prioritizes federal drug enforcement could further the spread of marijuana law reform—or bring legalization to its knees.

The Past: Colonial Hemp to Cannabis Propaganda

Marijuana prohibition is a rather recent phenomenon. In the early 17th century, American colonists were ordered to grow hemp for the British Empire. By the 18th century, American hemp was prized throughout the world, grown by our own founding fathers.

But what about psychoactive cannabis? Europeans in the 18th century enjoyed the use of hashish, which had come into vogue thanks to traders from North Africa. It's unclear how much cannabis may have been used for psychoactive purposes in early America, but cannabis medicine was certainly common by the latter half

of the 19th century. Britain's Dr. William O'Shaughnessy promulgated his research into the medicinal use of cannabis in India. That information reached soon the shores of America, and by the turn of the 20th century, cannabis was surpassed only by opiates and alcohol as an ingredient in the era's patent medicines.

Cannabis used for recreational purposes also picked up in the late 1800s. The *New York Times* described cannabis as a "fashionable narcotic" in 1853, and by the 1880s, hashish bars were popular in most large East Coast cities. But also gaining steam in the late 19th century was a reactionary movement—temperance—that sought to ban intoxicating liquors.

The temperance movement portrayed intoxication as anti-family, and while its crusade was aimed at liquor, it generated anti-cannabis fury as well. By the 1900s, the temperance movement ushered in a series of laws designed to regulate and control drugs. In order to drum up the fear of cannabis—which most Americans knew either as an industrial crop or as a patent medicine—propagandists began referring to it as "marijuana," the Mexican slang term. Soon, state after state passed laws to severely restrict or ban marijuana outright, aided by media portrayals of cannabis as a drug that made Negroes disrespectful to white men and lustful toward white women, caused Hispanics to be lazy or violent, and made teenagers suicidal or psychotic.

From Tax Stamp to "Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out"

In 1937, Congress passed the Marihuana Tax Act, which made it illegal to possess pot unless one had a tax stamp to prove that federal taxes had been paid on it. Additional laws were passed in the 1950s creating mandatory minimum sentences for marijuana possession. Even so, the use of marijuana increased, promoted first by the Beat writers of the 1950s and early '60s, followed by the hippies and returning Vietnam veterans of the '60s and '70s.

Despite the Marihuana Tax Act, US farmers were called upon to grow industrial hemp during World War II. The Japanese had cut off American supplies of hemp from the Philippines, leading the federal government to produce *Hemp for Victory*, a 14-minute film exhorting farmers to grow hemp to assist the war effort. The "Hemp for Victory" program officially ran from 1942 through 1945, but hemp continued to be grown on some farms until as late as 1957.

Harvard professor Dr. Timothy Leary, popularly known as the LSD guru who advised young people to "turn on, tune in, drop out," eventually recognized a fatal flaw in the Marihuana Tax Act: In order to get the stamp, you had to have the marijuana weighed by authorities—but if you possessed the pot without a tax stamp, you were already breaking the law.

In 1969, the Supreme Court agreed with Leary, citing the act's required self-incrimination as unconstitutional under the Fifth Amendment. For a brief moment in time, marijuana was no longer federally illegal—but it wasn't explicitly legal either, and it was still banned throughout the nation at the state level.

President Richard Nixon and Congress reacted quickly to the court's decision by creating the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. The CSA relied on federal power, granted under the US Constitution's commerce clause, to regulate the national market for drugs—and in the case of drugs like cannabis, LSD and heroin, all placed in the CSA's highly restricted Schedule I, "regulate" meant *ban*. All drugs in that category are expressly illegal for any purpose except strictly regulated research, which is almost never allowed.

From the Drug War to "Just Say No"

Drug policy thus became a political cudgel to use against his progressive political opponents, with Nixon announcing a "total war on Public Enemy No. 1." The Drug Enforcement Administration was created in this era; from its very beginning, the DEA placed a high priority on cannabis eradication. Pot busts skyrocketed, used as a tool to oppress minorities, young people and those opposed to Nixon's foreign policy.

However, marijuana use skyrocketed as well. By 1974, when Nixon resigned in ignominy over the Watergate scandal, marijuana had reached deep into popular culture, and support for legalization was gaining steam in the public-opinion polls.

In 1975, when Jimmy Carter—then an unknown governor of Georgia—began his successful run for the White House, he promised to decriminalize marijuana on the federal level (thereby following the lead of states like Oregon and California, which had ended arrests for simple possession by then). In 1977, Carter called upon Congress to decriminalize the possession of up to an ounce of marijuana. By 1978, polls showed that support for marijuana legalization had risen to 30 percent nationwide, as opposed to just 12 percent nine years earlier. National decriminalization seemed imminent.

Important Dates in American Legalization History

1619 Britain's King James I signs a royal decree requiring Virginia colonists to farm hemp.

1850s Cannabis is recognized as a "fashionable narcotic" by the *New York Times*.

1880s Hashish parlors become popular in most large East Coast cities.

1906 Congress passes the Pure Food and Drug Act, requiring drugs like cannabis to be labeled for sale.

1910s Most states pass laws banning cannabis to one degree or another.

1925 The United States signs the International Opium Convention, which bans the exportation of cannabis to countries that have prohibited it.

1930 The Federal Bureau of Narcotics is formed, the first national agency to exclusively enforce drug prohibition.

1937 Congress passes the Marihuana Tax Act, which bans the possession of cannabis without a tax stamp, effectively instituting pot prohibition.

1942 Despite the Marihuana Tax Act, the federal government institutes the "Hemp for Victory" program, which encourages farmers to grow much-needed hemp during World War II.

1952 & 1956 The Boggs Act and the Narcotic Control Act establish mandatory minimum federal sentences of two to 10 years for first-time cannabis possession.

1961 The UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs is signed, making cannabis a controlled substance internationally.

1969 The Supreme Court finds that the Marihuana Tax Act violates the Fifth Amendment's protections against self-incrimination and thus declares it unconstitutional.

1970 Congress re-prohibits cannabis by passing the Controlled Substances Act. Under the CSA, cannabis is classified as a Schedule I narcotic with no accepted medical use and a high likelihood of abuse.

1972 California becomes the first state to place a legalization initiative on the ballot, backed by the reform group Amorphia. It is decisively defeated, garnering just 33.5 percent of the vote.

1973 Oregon becomes the first of 11 states in the 1970s to end criminal arrests for the possession of personal-use amounts of pot.

1975 Alaska's Supreme Court rules that the state's privacy protections extend to the possession and personal use of up to four ounces of marijuana and 25 cannabis plants.

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But the pendulum of social approval swung back hard after President Carter's drug adviser, Peter Bourne, was caught up in a prescription-drug scandal after allegations surfaced that he had used cocaine at a NORML party in Washington, DC. Carter was forced to distance himself from decriminalization, and parents' groups began to form a latter-day temperance movement that once again portrayed "intoxication" as anti-family, with concerned mothers holding up gas-mask bongs on television and decrying a society in which 60 percent of high-school seniors had tried marijuana, according to federal surveys.

The revolt against America's perceived decline—losing the Vietnam War, a president resigning in scandal, the social upheavals caused by the antiwar protests and civil-rights battles, and the failed economic and foreign policies of the late '70s—set the stage for a master culture warrior, Ronald Reagan, to become president. Reagan promised "morning in America," a vision of a nation that was revitalized, morally righteous and tough on crime—and drugs quickly became a symbol of everything that Americans had rejected about the '70s. First lady Nancy Reagan embraced the anti-drug cause as her personal project, becoming the face of the simplistic "Just Say No" campaign.

Marijuana itself wasn't so much demonized as it was found guilty by association with other drugs, especially cocaine. In the late '70s and early '80s, cocaine was seen as just another party drug, much like marijuana. But once the dangers posed by cocaine (and, later, crack) was recognized, support for marijuana took a big hit. By the late '80s, House Speaker Tip O'Neill and Senator Joe Biden—both Democrats—were helping to create the legal instruments of marijuana oppression that survive to this day, such as mandatory minimum sentences and the Drug Czar's office. Support for legalizing marijuana dropped to just 1 in 6 Americans, and it looked as though it would never recover.

From Medical Marijuana to Legalization

Meanwhile, in California, a new angle on marijuana legalization was developing: its use as medicine. There had already been some limited success on this front, beginning with Robert Randall, who successfully sued the federal government in 1976 for the right to use cannabis to treat his glaucoma. A federal program was started in 1978 to supply his marijuana, and soon up to 30 patients were enrolled nationwide.

Important Dates in American Legalization History

1977 President Carter calls on Congress to decriminalize the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana, declaring that the penalties for drug use should not be more harmful than the drug itself.

1978 The Compassionate Investigational New Drug Program begins supplying federally grown medical marijuana to select patients.

1980 California Governor Ronald Reagan is elected president after declaring: "Marijuana, pot, grass—whatever you want to call it—is probably the most dangerous drug in the United States."

1982 First lady Nancy Reagan, in the second year of her crusade against drug use by young people, answers "Just say no" to an Oakland schoolchild who asks how to respond to an offer of drugs, launching a catchphrase that would last throughout the decade.

1984 Congress passes the Comprehensive Crime Control Act, which establishes harsh mandatory minimum sentences for a variety of crimes, including drug violations.

1986 Congress passes the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, which establishes "three strikes" sentencing and the death penalty for so-called "drug kingpins."

1988 The Office of National Drug Control Policy (headed up by the country's new "drug czar") is created.

1990 Alaskans vote to recriminalize marijuana statewide

1991 President George H.W. Bush closes the Compassionate Investigational New Drug Program once it becomes flooded with applications from AIDS patients.

1996 California passes Proposition 215, becoming the first state to legalize medical marijuana.

2000 Alaska defeats a legalization initiative for persons 18 and older.

2002 Nevada defeats a legalization initiative for persons 21 and older.

2004 Alaska defeats a legalization initiative for persons 21 and older.

2006 Nevada and Colorado defeat legalization initiatives.

2010 California defeats a legalization initiative.

2012 Colorado and Washington approve legalization initiatives.

2014 Oregon, Alaska and Washington, DC, approve legalization initiatives.

On a broader scale, activists like Dennis Peron and Mary Jane "Brownie Mary" Rathbun were supplying marijuana as medicine to people with cancer and, later, AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area throughout the late '70s and '80s. By the 1990s, both had been arrested numerous times, but they still continued (along with others) to break the law in order to help the desperately ill. The city of Oakland eventually passed a law allowing the distribution of medical marijuana, and Peron promptly took advantage of it, opening the Cannabis Buyers Club.

Peron then joined other notable activists, attorneys and physicians to co-author Proposition 215, which voters passed in 1996, legalizing medical marijuana in California. The federal government was stymied because under the Constitution, it can neither compel states to enforce federal marijuana laws nor to enact their own marijuana prohibitions. If the Feds wanted to send DEA agents to arrest sick people in wheelchairs, that was their prerogative—but every time they did so, they created public sympathy for the patients and terrible PR for the government. So the Feds decided to leave medical marijuana patients alone, but raided and arrested many providers and cultivators.

Despite the specter of federal raids, California's cannabis industry flourished, and medical marijuana gained popular support elsewhere, with laws allowing its use being passed in one state or another in almost every election cycle since then. Opponents have called it a "Trojan horse" for outright legalization, however, and those concerns led to each successive med-pot law becoming more restrictive and strictly regulated, to ensure that it couldn't be gamed by recreational consumers seeking to avoid prosecution. Even so, the increasing popularity of medical marijuana opened people's minds: Adults could now use it responsibly and experience beneficial effects. It was no longer a satanic "party drug."

Throughout the 2000s, attempts were made in Colorado, Alaska and Nevada to legalize marijuana, but each one failed to seize the public's imagination, and each went down to resounding defeat. It wasn't until 2010 that a statewide legalization initiative seemed poised to win at the ballot box. A California med-pot provider named Richard Lee—against the advice of many marijuana law reform organizations, which counseled him to wait until a presidential election year, when progressive voters turn out in stronger numbers—sunk $1.5 million of his own money into Proposition 19. For some time before the election, support for

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the measure polled in the high 50s, shocking a political establishment that considered legalization a fringe issue. Although Prop. 19 was ultimately defeated, it did force then–Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to rush through a landmark decriminalization bill in order to dilute the appeal of legalizing up to an ounce.

Finally, in 2012, two states broke through and passed legalization. Colorado's campaign focused on the fact that marijuana is objectively safer than alcohol, so that it made no sense to treat its consumers as criminals. In Washington State, the campaign focused on a public-safety message that legalization would better focus limited police resources and better prevent children from using pot.

The Present: What Good Is the Will of the People?

In 2014, Oregon, Alaska and Washington, DC, followed Colorado and Washington State by legalizing marijuana. In Oregon, the campaign emphasized the economic benefits of legalization and the futility of prohibition. In Alaska, legalization was proposed as both an economic engine and a way of providing access for the state's medical marijuana patients, who were never really given the dispensary system they require. In Washington, DC, where the population is 50 percent African-American, the campaign stressed the racial injustice of marijuana enforcement.

Despite the conventional wisdom concerning nonpresidential election years, the 2014 campaigns scored victories that exceeded expectations. Alaska became the first so-called "red state" to legalize, with 52 percent support. Oregon passed its legalization initiative with 56 percent approval—the greatest margin of victory in any of the legal states. Even more significant, both states managed off-year election victories without including odious compromises like the "stoned driving" provisions and home-cultivation bans found in Washington State, or the unreasonable taxation that exists both there and in Colorado—thereby portending potential 2016 victories for ever-more-progressive legalization initiatives.

Washington, DC, is a special case. As a federal district, its operations are overseen and controlled by Congress. This meant that DC couldn't pass a typical tax-and-regulate initiative, since Congress controls its purse strings. So activists there passed what's known as "grow and give" legalization: Adults can possess up to two ounces, cultivate up to six plants, and freely give them to one another, but there can be no buying or selling of marijuana. The city would like to add market regulations, but it has been thwarted by spending prohibitions enacted by the drug warriors in Congress.

But DC isn't the only place where politicians are ignoring the will of the people. In Oregon, the legalization initiative is statutory, not constitutional, and Oregon lacks Washington State's two-year protection against legislative tampering with initiated laws. As of press time, legislators in Oregon have proposed numerous bills that would alter or abolish major portions of the legalization initiative.

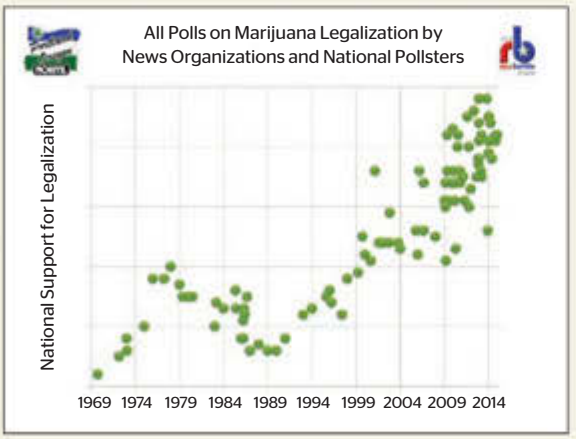
Whither Medical Marijuana?

An ongoing problem with marijuana legalization in the Pacific Northwest is how it impacts medical marijuana. Colorado has avoided most of these issues, thanks to a robust regulatory scheme and a legalization rollout that integrated the existing medical marijuana industry.

But in Washington State, rolling out legalization alongside medical marijuana has been a disaster. Washington never developed a well-regulated medical program; it lacks even a statewide patient registry, which is found in every other medical state but California. Dispensaries have never been legalized, but they exploded into existence anyway to serve patient needs through various loopholes and technicalities. So while recreational pot shops are strictly regulated, limited in number and sell marijuana with an effective 40 percent tax markup, the dispensaries are unregulated, unlimited and untaxed. Legislators in Olympia are desperate to close these loopholes and regulate the industry, with some proposing to eliminate medical marijuana altogether.

In Oregon, a somewhat similar situation is playing out: Dispensaries are better regulated, but the medical marijuana grow ops that supply them are not.

Popular Support for Marijuana Legalization (1969–2015)



Since 1969, news organizations and professional polling groups have been asking Americans whether they support marijuana legalization. In the beginning, just 12 percent of the nation was in favor of legalizing pot. In 1971, the National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse issued a report finding that cannabis was relatively benign and recommending that it be decriminalized. The report infuriated then-President Richard Nixon, who ignored its recommendations and continued the policy of criminalizing marijuana consumers. However, the use of pot by a younger generation led to the steepest increase in support for legalization over the next decade, rising to 30 percent by 1978.

After the election of Ronald Reagan, however, a backlash against the "permissive" attitudes of the '70s, coupled with the high-profile, cocaine-related deaths of comedian John Belushi and basketball phenom Len Bias, led to a sharp decline in the support for legalization, which decreased to just 16 percent by the end of Reagan's second term.

At the dawn of the 1990s, Americans were slowly becoming aware of the medicinal uses of marijuana, thanks to pioneering med-pot activists helping the victims of the growing AIDS epidemic in the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere. Encouraged as well by Bill Clinton's admission—the first by a presidential candidate—that he'd smoked weed in college (albeit without inhaling), support for legalization began rising in the third decade of polling, reaching approximately the same 30 percent approval that the country had seen at the end of the '70s.

By the start of the new millennium, another conservative president had been elected in the person of George W. Bush—but this time the existence of medical marijuana shifted the terms of the debate, negating the efforts by earlier prohibitionists to cast pot as a dangerous party drug. By the end of the 2000s, the country saw the first nationwide polls showing majority support for legalizing pot.

In 2015—halfway through the fifth decade of polling on the subject—most polls are showing majority or plurality support for legalization, including the most important polls: the votes that legalized adult recreational use in four states and the District of Columbia, setting the precedent for many more to come.

APEX







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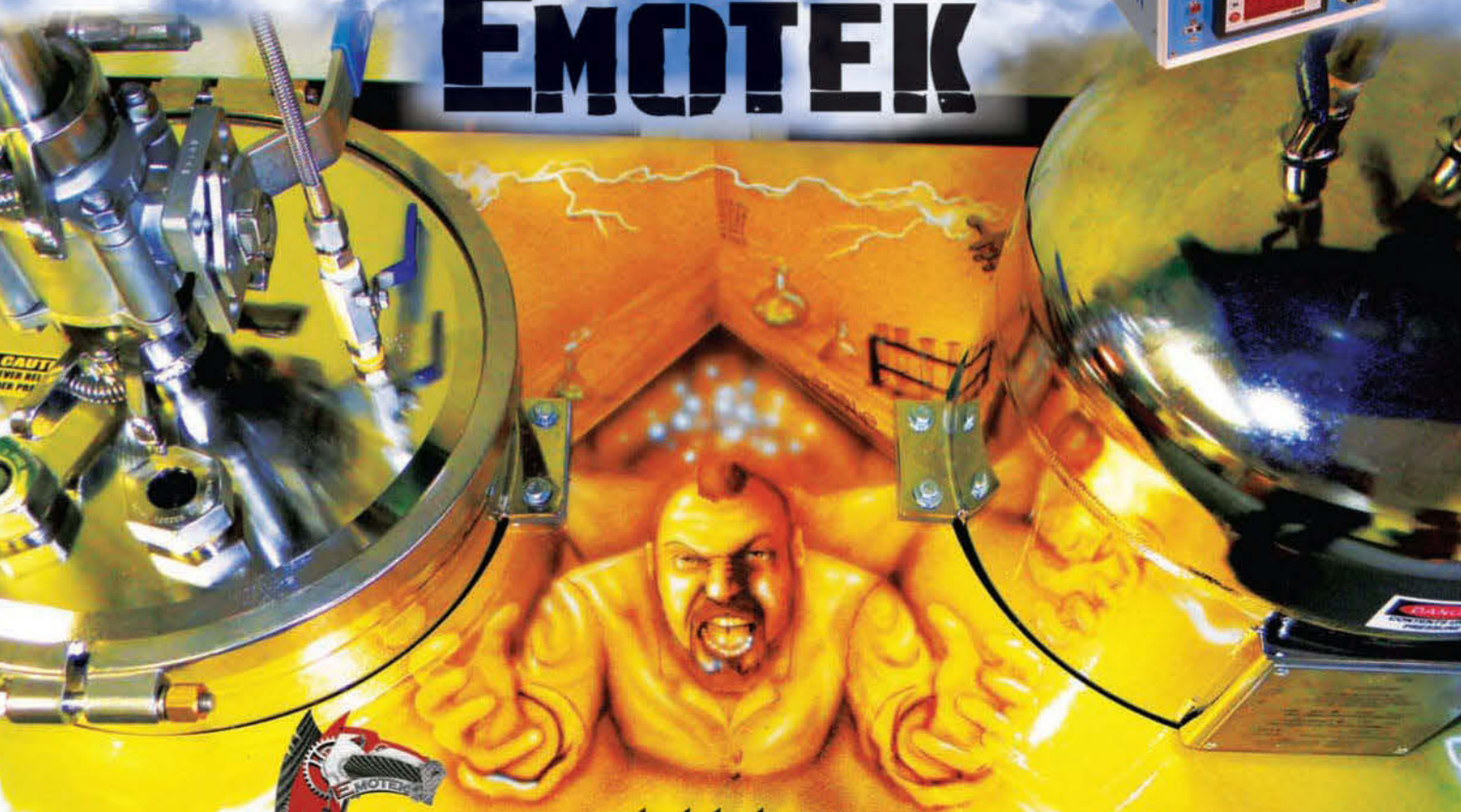


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Legislators in Salem are looking to curtail many of the allowances in the medical marijuana program, believing that access to the new recreational market will suffice for all but the sickest Oregonians.

The Future: The Next States to Legalize

No one predicted that Ohio would legalize marijuana anytime soon, much less before California. But this year, a group calling itself ResponsibleOhio may do just that. The group has developed a novel approach to changing state marijuana laws: funding legalization by enshrining its funders as the state marijuana cartel. Under the plan, any adult can possess marijuana and grow up to four plants for his or her personal use if licensed, and any adult can open marijuana retail shops and processing facilities—but only the 10 investors in ResponsibleOhio can operate commercial grows.

Everyone is looking to California as the national game-changer in 2016, but whether its various marijuana law reform factions can come together on one initiative remains an open question. Currently, four groups are seeking to put initiatives on the ballot, with plans ranging from a standard tax-and-regulate bill to wide-open, treat-it-like-tomatoes legalization.

Nevada reformers have already gotten legalization on the ballot for 2016. Their plan is a tax-and-regulate measure that would allow possession of up to one ounce of pot, an eighth of an ounce of marijuana concentrates, and the cultivation of six plants. The measure would allow commercial grow ops, processors and retail stores to be created as well.

Other states gearing up for legalization campaigns are Arizona, Maine and Massachusetts. Arizona may be the most problematic of the three; medical marijuana barely passed there in 2010 (by just 0.13 percent of the vote), and the state has a very conservative streak. However, young libertarian-leaning Republicans are tipping in favor of legalization and may hold the key to a win there.

In Maine, citywide legalization passed in Portland and South Portland but lost in Lewiston—so legalization there hinges on urban voters. Massachusetts has passed marijuana law reforms in the past two presidential elections by 60 percent or greater (decriminalization in 2008 and medical marijuana in 2012), so chances are good that the commonwealth legalizes pot in 2016.

Other states may very well legalize marijuana through a legislative vote, which would allow lawmakers to have their say before reformers pass an initiative without their input. Pro-pot lobbyists in Rhode Island, Vermont and New Mexico believe their states could legalize in 2015 or '16; Hawaii and New Hampshire might follow suit in 2017. There are also a few long-shot possibilities, such as Arkansas and Missouri—which may turn out not to be such risky bets once the 2016 campaign heats up and legalizing pot proves to be a burning question.

When Federal Prohibition Ends

"So when will marijuana be completely legal?"

That's a loaded question, and the answer depends on what is meant by "completely" and "legal." If "completely" means that marijuana is legal to grow, sell, buy, possess and use in all 50 states, then that may take a while. Keep in mind that while national alcohol prohibition ended in 1933, Mississippi remained a dry state until 1966, and to this day there are numerous counties, cities and Indian reservations where alcohol is still prohibited. Certainly, even if the president or attorney general completely removed cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act—which, by the way, either could do with a mere signature tomorrow—a state could conceivably maintain its marijuana prohibitions.



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Then, too, if "legal" means that anyone can grow or possess as much pot as they like and sell it like any other agricultural commodity, that also won't be happening anytime soon. So long as marijuana's legalization is connected to its value as a tax-revenue enhancer, and so long as neighboring states continue its prohibition, state and local governments will want to keep as much control over it as possible.

The end to federal prohibition may very well depend on two questions: whether California legalizes, and who occupies the White House in 2017. The debate on marijuana will be unavoidable. Presidential candidates will be grilled regarding their personal history with marijuana and their views on legalization. And aside from culture warriors like Mike Huckabee and Chris Christie, any winner in 2016 looking to get re-elected can't afford to lose California's 55 Electoral College votes, or those of the other states that legalize by then. Can you imagine the next president using his or her powers to reschedule marijuana, or possibly even remove it from the Controlled Substances Act altogether and let the states regulate its use as they see fit? Not so fast. The blowback of the late '70s against the trend of decriminalization could certainly happen again. So let us imagine…

The Nightmare Scenarios

For example, America is hit by domestic terrorist attacks—not in major cities, but in the heartland. Investigations discover that the terrorists have been funding themselves through the proceeds of legal marijuana sales. Or else it's revealed that the young Americans who signed up with these organizations are heavy marijuana users. Unscrupulous politicians fan the flames of fear and hatred again, and a new wave of anti-marijuana sentiment infects American discourse.

Or…

The heavy use of marijuana concentrates by young people turns out to be more harmful than it's currently considered. Explosions set off by careless, untrained idiots trying to make butane hash oil continue to generate awful press coverage.

Or…

The teen use of marijuana rapidly increases. Too many instances of kids eating marijuana-infused candies, or of adults using legal marijuana in conjunction with alcohol, are reported, inspiring yet another anti-pot temperance movement.

Or…

Something much more mundane: Prices fall, pot use increases, but tax revenues start to decrease. States that were the first to legalize see budget shortfalls as the projected revenues fail to materialize.

It's All Up to You

Let's not panic: It's still hard to imagine anything that could roll back the gains we've currently made. Even when the pendulum swung back in the '80s, the states that had decriminalized in the '70s did not recriminalize marijuana.

But will legalization proceed? Really, it's up to us. Contact your elected representatives, from your local city council member to your county commissioner, state representative, congressperson and senators, all the way up to the president. Join together with like-minded supporters in groups like NORML and others. Talk to your friends, family members and co-workers about ending marijuana prohibition for adults. It may sound corny to think that one person can make a difference, but every bit of progress on legalization happened because of individuals who shared your belief in personal freedom. Legalization will be ours, eventually, if we work hard enough for it.

Russ Belville is the host of The Russ Belville Show at radicalruss.com.



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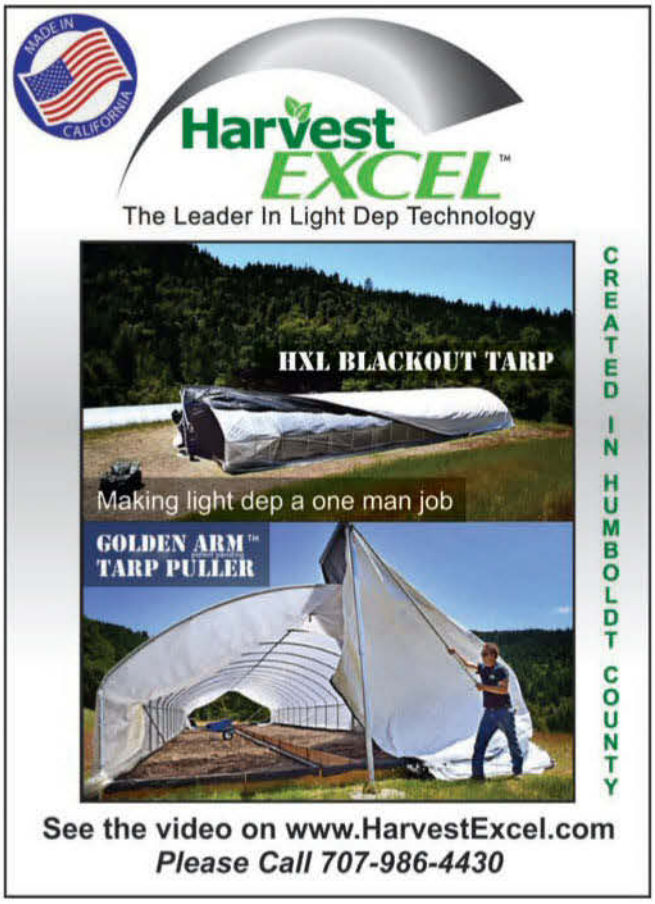
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SUSAN SARANDON

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

AFTER 45 YEARS ON THE BIG SCREEN, SUSAN SARANDON HAS EARNED A REPUTATION AS ONE OF AMERICA'S FINEST ACTRESSES, STARRING IN CLASSICS LIKE *BULL DURHAM*, *THELMA & LOUISE* AND *DEAD MAN WALKING*, FOR WHICH SHE WON THE BEST ACTRESS OSCAR.

BUT SARANDON'S ALSO KNOWN FOR HER COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL CAUSES, INCLUDING HER CLEAR-EYED OPPOSITION TO THE IRAQ WAR. THE ISSUE OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION IS ANOTHER AREA THAT SHE FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT—ENOUGH SO THAT SHE READILY SAT DOWN WITH *HIGH TIMES* TO EXPRESS HER BELIEF IN ITS BENEFITS. IT'S THE WAY SHE LEADS HER LIFE. AS THE THOUGHTFUL, OUTSPOKEN ACTRESS SAYS, "I USE MY CELEBRITY CONSCIOUSLY SO IT DOESN'T USE ME."

Is this the first time you've spoken out on behalf of cannabis?

No, no. It's the first time I've officially spoken, but I've been clear before. I've said in print that I would rather have my kids smoking weed than drinking. I was on *Watch What Happens Live* with Andy Cohen and talked about how many award ceremonies I'd been to stoned. The media picked that up, so it's been pretty well known.

I'm a huge believer that if more people smoked—not just for medicinal purposes, but for lifestyle purposes, instead of drinking—the world would be a better place. I think it's good to have somebody who represents a different demographic to help educate people so that they're a little bit better informed about what legalization really means. It's absurd that more states haven't legalized it. Economically, it makes such sense for the infrastructure of a state to have that kind of income. It can be an important source of revenue.

You also see the reports on kids who have seizures that are prevented by medical marijuana. You see the relief that it gives to vets. There's a lot of very clear scientific support for medical marijuana. But I don't want to focus on the idea that you have to be sick to use it. It's more of a lifestyle choice—like yoga or meditation. It's also a really lovely way to socialize and be with people—and to be with yourself and de-stress.

When did you first smoke?

It wasn't that easy when I was in college to get a hold of. It was towards the end of my college experience, the end of the '60s. Nobody really knew that much about it.

Do you remember the first time you tried it?

I don't remember it as being so extraordinary. I never was a drinker: My body is pretty finely tuned, and I didn't like drinking because I would just feel tired or not feel well. When I smoked, I remember thinking: "Oh, this is much more my speed. This definitely works better for me."

Has it been a lifelong companion?

It's something that I've always had around, and I've always been with people who smoked. But I went on a major hiatus when my kids were young. If I did smoke, I'd have to really find a time when I could—just for me. It's never fun being high when you have to pretend you're not.

How about reading scripts and preparing for roles?

I've never worked high and I've never filmed high. But I've read scripts high and gotten a different perspective. That's the great thing about smoking weed: If you lead a very, very busy life, for me, it really makes the most of the weekend. It like *triples* your weekends. If you only have certain windows to get high, it allows you to slow down and really *be* there. It's really important, because technology has made everybody multi-task: We get so distracted and so crazy, and our relationships are less human and more based on technology. Smoking helps you to connect again—to be present and conscious.

Which issue of marijuana legalization strikes you as the most urgent?

Certainly, the jails being full of people for ridiculous drug-related crimes: If you really want to stop cartel action, then legalize marijuana. I do think it should be regulated—I don't think it's a good idea for young kids to smoke regularly while their brains are developing. As I've explained to my kids, weed helps you take a break from a very busy life. But you'll never have a really full life if you're stoned constantly from a young age.

Let's talk about your films. *Joe*, your first movie, came out in 1970—a controversial film, to say the least. You were raised in a strict Catholic household. How did your parents react?

My parents never really weighed in on anything for years. They never talked about my career. I think that's one of the reasons that I used a different name—I wasn't sure how embarrassed they

NIGEL PARRY/CPI SYNDICATION



might be, even though my dad started out as a band singer. He was in the business, but my mom was raised in foster care by Catholic Charities, and she was very Catholic. But *Joe*, like a number of things that I've done, became huge because of the timing, not so much because it was a great movie.

But it's certainly provocative.

All right, I'll tell the story. I came to New York, and in like seven days, I went up for this audition, and they asked me to do an improvisation. I didn't even know what that was. *Joe* had no budget—about a million dollars. I did the movie, and it was basically a "My parents don't understand me" script, about this rich little girl who's with this guy in the Village.

They fired the first guy who was playing Joe and hired Peter Boyle—which was a stroke of genius, because he brought this character he'd been doing in Second City. He plugged that character in.

While the film was being edited, there was an incident on Wall Street where construction workers beat up a bunch of hippies. They very smartly refocused the movie and made it about Joe and this cultural turning point, this culture clash. *Joe* was called the *Easy Rider* of its year, because it came out of left field and represented everybody's nightmare: that this girl from a nice home ends up being shot by her own father because she's fucking a hippie and drugs are involved.

It's not that good. The only thing that I did that was really smart was not try to act too hard. I got through it fine, and it was really fun: I wore my own clothes, they shot up my own jacket, I was doing my own hair and makeup—but I got to trash a store in one take. That just got me hooked on acting from that point on.



A doe-eyed Sarandon made her screen debut in *Joe*.

"The concept of original sin never made sense to me. I was having problems early on with institutionalized religion of any kind."

You weren't an actress in college?

No. I went to Catholic University, and I was in the drama department—but, scholastically, the focus was more on literature.

Has your Catholic upbringing influenced you?

I was told I had an overabundance of original sin really early on… in the third grade. I remember it clearly. It was explained that you could only be married in the Catholic Church; that was the only way that it counted. I asked, "Then how are Joseph and Mary married if Jesus didn't make it up until later?"

A real question—and that's when I was told to go stand in the hall. But I very much wanted to be a good person, very much wanted to stand up for my beliefs against the Communists who were overrunning us and hanging us on crosses upside-down. I would pray to see the Blessed Virgin and all of those things. Then I went to Edison High School in New Jersey, which had 500 kids in my class. The very first day, they did the Protestant version of the Lord's Prayer, and I flipped sides just like that. I gave up my faith in two seconds.

What about the expression "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic?"

The concept of original sin never made sense to me. I was having problems early on with institutionalized religion of any kind. The final blow came when I went to Catholic University. That was when priests were running off with the nuns, and there was all this upheaval in the Church. I was learning in-depth about everything. It was very clear that the teachings were completely manmade, bogus, and very problematic in terms of women and the poor. However, when I went to Central America, I met nuns and priests who really do work with the poor and for social change. These are amazing religious people who are connected to real life and doing something to help.

But then you see the lead-up to the war, and nobody speaks out. That's the hierarchy, and—well—the Church has lots of problems…

Do you use your celebrity consciously to promote causes?

I use my celebrity consciously so it doesn't use me. It's a way of survival. I came of age at a time when the issues were much clearer, and if you had half a brain and half a heart, you were politically active. Being an actor requires imagination, which leads to empathy, which leads to action. So it's a very fluid engagement for me, activism—if you can imagine sending your son off to war, then you can have empathy for the mother whose son actually *is* going to war. You can't *not* be aware. I see myself not as an expert on anything, but as more of a little flashlight that can highlight information people aren't getting—especially now that the media is so corporate. Once you're willing to do that, once people know that you'll go on the line for something, people give you information.

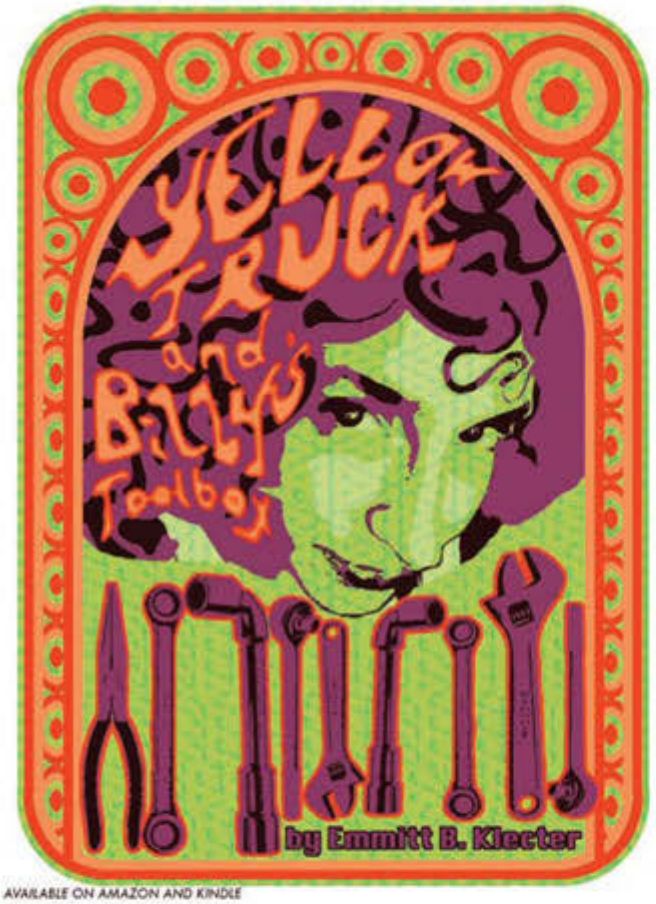


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At the Oscars in 1993, you and Tim Robbins used your stage time to demand that the government close an internment camp in Guantánamo for Haitian refugees with HIV and AIDS. The backlash was huge. Can you describe that experience?

We couldn't be presenting and not take advantage of the opportunity. There was a news brownout on Guantánamo; the refugees had been abandoned there for years. [President Bill] Clinton had promised to get them out but hadn't, so there was a situation. I'd already been arrested with a bunch of church people; still, nothing was happening. I was trying to figure out exactly what we could say that would be brief, but bring attention to it with enough embarrassment—but not too much guilt. Whenever you lobby for change, or try to, you should give whoever's in charge the ability to not be completely humiliated. Usually, it will produce something—in fact, in this case, the refugees got out like a few days later.

"Every time I took a year off to have a kid, I thought I'd never come back."

We didn't tell anybody about our plans, except the people who were very involved with the issue. Nobody—none of my reps or anybody else—knew about it. But somehow, there was a feeling that something was going to happen. I was hiding, because I knew Gil Cates, who was producing the show, would ask me outright—and I'd be very bad at lying. So I just was trying to avoid him. Afterwards, nobody would make eye contact with us; it was really uncomfortable. We ended up leaving.

Then all of the announcements about banning us from future Oscars came out. Robin Williams wrote a letter defending us, and he got dumped on. Charlton Heston said our speech was "like being invited to something and then pissing on the rug." For some reason, I got letters that were very racist and very homophobic. But that didn't bother me at all; it just made me feel like we absolutely did the right thing.

The lead-up to the Iraq War was much more threatening, because people were in such an emotional state. At times, it got a little scary, because people were writing stuff about our kids in the paper that wasn't true. It was hurtful. We were banned from the 15th anniversary of *Bull Durham* at the Baseball Hall of Fame, but that ended up being a really good thing, because it showed how ridiculous it was. Kevin Costner stood up for us at that time.

How do you account for your long career?

No fucking idea. I mean, every time I took a year off to have a kid, I thought I'd never come back. I think it helps that I see myself as a character actress, which gives you a broader base, and you can make transitions a little easier. Very few people—women—who started out with me at 20 have managed to continue to work. The transition from playing ingénues... I don't know. I've been lucky.

One of my favorite films that you appeared in was *Who Am I This Time?* It was a very touching, seriocomic piece on PBS, only an hour long.

I love that one, too. How sweet is Christopher Walken? You'll never see him like that again. There are very few times when he's been that vulnerable, really. It's such a sweet, funny, weird little film with *A Streetcar Named Desire* as its reference point. I think Chris would have been great as Stanley Kowalski.


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Sarandon will forever be famous for the cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show.*

"In front of us were some teenagers and their parents, who had met doing it. It was their family tradition. I was like, "Oh my God, this is so crazy!"

What are the favorite movies you've done?

That's a very *Sophie's Choice* question. Of course *Dead Man Walking*, because I found the book and I nurtured it—and as difficult as it was to do, I really loved working with Sean [Penn]. And Tim [Robbins] did an amazing job directing. It was just very rewarding to have it even get made and then see it affect so many people.

Bull Durham was the role of a lifetime. That was the first part I had that I was not *overqualified* for—and she didn't have to die at the end.

Were you surprised by the media furor surrounding *Thelma & Louise*?

We didn't see that coming. You suspend your disbelief when you get into these things. When we did it, it was just so much fun to be a badass, and Geena [Davis] was so funny. It was just a cowboy movie with women and cars instead of guys and horses. I guess we didn't understand what was held so dear by white heterosexual men of a certain age.

We have to ask about *The Rocky Horror Picture Show.*

It's so great. The song "Don't Dream It, Be It" really resonates with people.

Have you ever gone to one of those midnight shows where audience members get up and act out the film?

I took Molly Ringwald before we did *Tempest*. She was 11. When I was doing *Anywhere But Here* with Natalie Portman—she was 16 or 17—we also took my daughter, who was about 14. We went in LA, and there were people in front of the screen doing everything that's on the screen. In front of us were some teenagers and their parents, who had met doing it. It was their family tradition. I was like, "Oh my God, this is so crazy!"

You're in your 60s. Does the fragility of life make more of an impact on you now?

The first time that you really become obsessed with death is when you have children. Nobody ever tells you that, but you just think about dying all the time once you have a child. And then, of course, AIDS—experiencing death so young. I know so many people struggling with health issues.

I'll be 70 and then I'll be 80 and then I'll be 90—and I plan to live at least through my 90s. But, of course, it's on your mind all the time, and I think it's a good thing, too. It gives you perspective so you can focus on being conscious—not living in the past and worrying about the future. It's helpful in trying to see your place—your insignificant place—in the whole scheme of things. It's helpful in really figuring out what consciousness is, to just accept it and to be there.

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Outside the Pot Box

Working (indirectly) with weed in ancillary cannabusinesses.

Many businesses, despite the forward leaps we've made with state legalization, are hesitant to get involved with the marijuana industry. But for every investor we see not wanting to finance green start-ups, other investment groups are gung ho to put plenty of green in ganja. If you're a ganjapreneur who doesn't want to miss out on one of the biggest economic growth opportunities of our time, consider starting an ancillary cannabusiness as an entry point. Ancillary businesses are less risky because they operate without ever touching the cannabis leaf, meaning there's no interaction with selling, buying or growing the plant. Instead, these cannabusinesses provide assistance or services to others who do.

If you've ever been to the High Times Cannabis Cup and have strolled the hundreds of expo vendors, you've seen the amazing variety of cannabis products on display—everything from massive Trimpro nug trimming machines to Emotek Labs closed-loop extractors for making concentrates, down to Cloud Penz vaporizers and Oilslick's silicone containers for securing your dabs.

Speaking of dabs, we've seen a whole new segment of the industry emerge around the making and smoking of concentrates. Companies like Best Value Vac focus on the purging of gas, while Terpp Extractors deals with blasting. Keep in mind that there will be an ongoing demand for the initial gas/product—for this, check out Capital Butane.

Besides cannabis products, maybe you have a good idea brewing for a clothing outfitter. Companies like Seedless Clothing and Smokers Only are known for their pro-pot gear, and even High Times strikes up licensing deals every now and then—most recently with *hightimesheadwear.com* for awesome knitwear.

There are numerous ancillary businesses for cannabis growers and you can see their ads line the pages of *High Times*. From plant necessities like O_2 Grow to all-inclusive growboxes from BC Bud Depot, these businesses attract not only the everyday gardening enthusiast, but also those specializing in growing premium marijuana.



Clockwise, from top: Start an ancillary business with man's best friend; O_2 Grow is a real roots company; Emotek Labs concentrates on closed-loop systems.

Don't forget about the many services needed for any up-and-coming industry. Cannabusinesses need expert lawyers to navigate the legal minefields and ever-changing laws; accountants are needed to figure out tax law; and IT specialists are always in high demand for everything from dispensary or business websites to managing specialized seed-to-sale tracking software.

Finally, don't overlook security as an ancillary business or service in the cannabis industry, as a lot of cash is often on hand from sales in dispensaries. You can follow the lead of Canna Security America and create a service to match former law enforcement officials and veterans with dispensaries that need a little muscle, or you can think outside the cannabusiness box like Protection Dog Sales, who will train your current pet to alert you to intruders in your grow op or home, or will sell you an already-trained protective pup.

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Send your cannabis cultivation questions to ***@deardanko*** or ***deardanko@hightimes.com***.



Grow tents can be converted into air- and light-tight drying chambers.

SUBJECT: **Drying Outdoors**

FROM: **Max**

I am growing for the first time, and I'm doing it outdoors. I think I have everything covered except for the drying and curing process. Since I won't be able to dry indoors, I was wondering if drying outside with the buds hanging on a string between two trees with a tarp would be a possible option? Would they get moldy?

Dear Max,

I don't recommend drying crops outdoors for a couple of reasons. First, light degrades THC, so any sunshine on your drying plants will decrease the potency of your pot. Also, depending on the temperature outside, you could end up drying the buds far too quickly. Hot, dry air is to be avoided during the drying process, so it's better to do it indoors where you can more easily control the environment.

Ideally, you should dry your buds in a cool, dark place with an oscillating fan moving the air around (but not blowing directly on the drying branches). After about six to 10 days, when the branches snap instead of bending, trim the buds off and place them in opaque, airtight glass jars to cure. Open the jars once or twice a day to release the built-up moisture and, in a couple of weeks, you'll have perfectly cured buds that taste and burn perfectly.

LOCHFOOT

Danko Tip: Always use at least one oscillating fan for every 4' x 4' area in your growroom.



Fan leaves can be juiced for beneficial properties.

SUBJECT: **Turn, Turn, Turn**

FROM: **Shankspeer**

I'm a grower who likes to turn (reposition) my plants toward the illumination. I give them a quarter-turn every day during the vegetative stage and a half-turn every other day during flowering. I find that the strength of the plant increases enough so that trellising isn't needed (so far), and the branches spread out naturally into a "sea of green." Two-part question: Does this practice increase the time taken for whatever cycle the plant is in? And should I discontinue doing this at some point?

Thanks—you've been a great help in my garden!

Dear Shankspeer,
What a great tip! I highly recommend rotating your plants as they grow: It helps the light reach shaded areas and increases the thickness of the branches as they adjust to the new conditions. In answer to your questions, this practice doesn't delay the vegetative or flowering cycle, so there's no need to discontinue it at any time.

SUBJECT: **Uses for Fan Leaves**

FROM: **Shane**

I was wondering about good uses for fan leaves. We have a ton, and I'd like to use them instead of throwing them away.

Dear Shane,
There are several things you can do with fan leaves. One of the most interesting recent developments has been people juicing their fan leaves along with fruits and veggies to make a smoothie. Many have claimed health benefits from ingesting the unheated cannabinoids (THCA, CBDA and CBCA) in liquid form. Just use them in the same way you would wheatgrass or kale in your juicer.

Other people use the fan leaves to roll cigar-style joints, but this is somewhat difficult to master. My friend Jean Carlos makes individual cannabis cigars—called "Magars"—using the fan leaves to hold connoisseur-quality flowers and hash. It takes some practice to get right, but it's certainly a worthy endeavor.

SUBJECT: **Bending Branches**

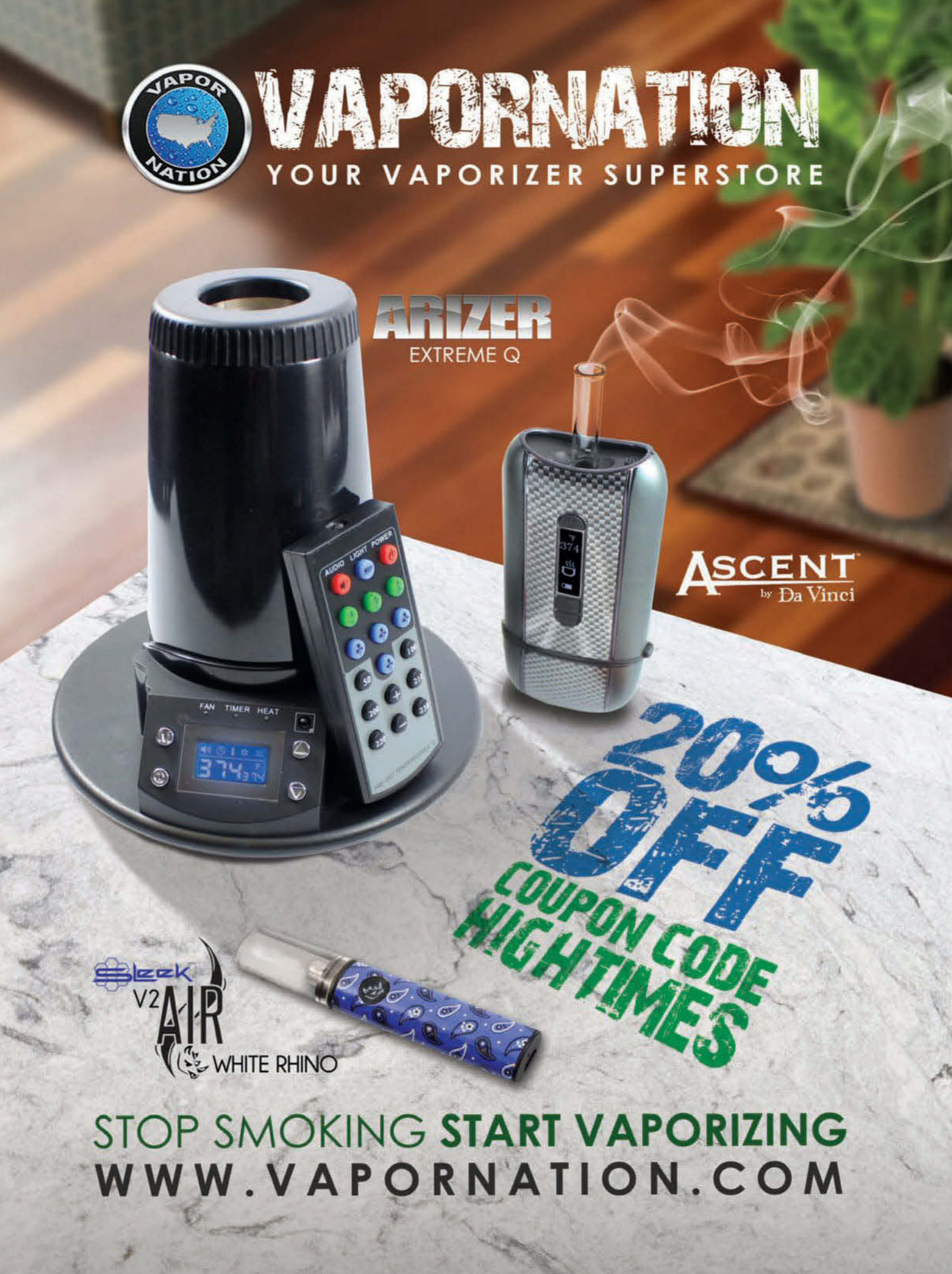
FROM: **Brian H.**

I'm a certified MMJ patient and, ever since attending the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, I've taken steps to piece together a solid grow setup. I emailed you a few months back during the blizzard, and your expertise got my ladies through the storm—and now they're thriving! My grow setup is nearly complete, but there's a

BRIAN JAHN

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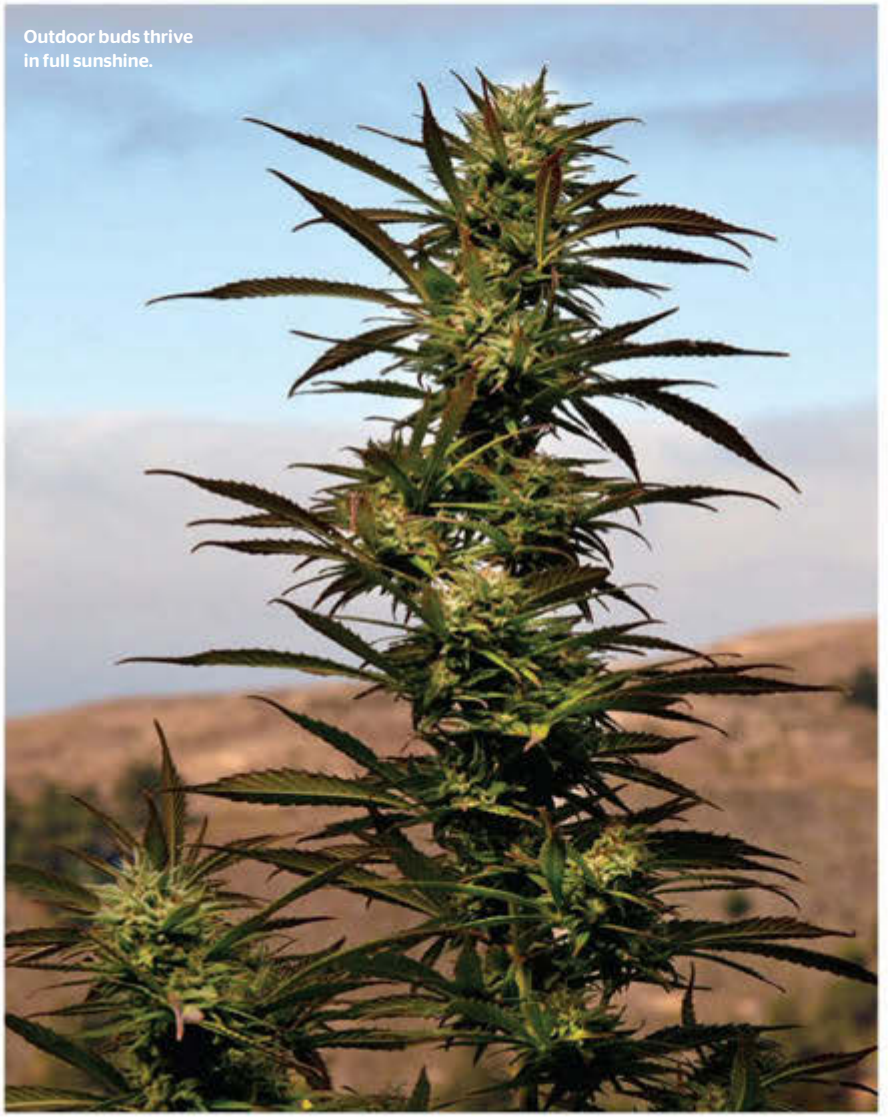
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Danko Tip: Place mulch around your outdoor plant's main stalk to help conserve water.



Outdoor buds thrive in full sunshine.

problem (a good one to have, but one that nonetheless needs some attention).

I got a little overzealous and propagated seeds before my unit was complete. I've been growing in a spare bedroom closet. My intention was to get some plants started in the interim so that when my grow tent was finished, I would simply move them out of the veg closet and into a flower chamber.

My grow tent is now ready, with the temps and humidity under control. I have four plants between three and four months old (Kandy Kush, 7/8 Sour Diesel and two Delahaze). My concern is that the Kandy Kush and Sour D have already grown to almost 4 feet tall. My tent is 4.5 feet in height, and an LED hangs inside it at 4 feet. I realize that the plants will still stretch a bit more during flower, causing the buds to hit the light.

Here's my solution: I read about a technique where, by bending the stalk and tying it down, you train the plant to keep a low profile. But does the plant have to be trained/bent at a young age, or can this method be applied to a 3- or 4-month-old plant with a half-inch stalk? Also, from what I gather, bending affects the hormones of the plant. If that's the case, and if bending older plants is a viable option, then once they're bent, should they veg out a few more weeks to help them acclimate/reduce stress before flowering, or could I bend them and go straight to the 12/12-hour light cycle?

Dear Brian,
It is possible to bend older branches, but you must be careful to do it gently in order not to break them. Younger plants are easier to train this way, since they aren't as developed and thus their branches are more pliable. Some people use netting (for example, chicken wire) or even fishing weights to keep the branches down. The important thing is to avoid breaking them, and one way to do this is by bending the branches just a little bit each day until they're at the level you desire.

Grow guru and legendary breeder Soma uses an innovative technique in which he gently twists the stalks of the plants until they naturally bend over and then slowly build back strength at the site of the trauma. Either way, you should let the plants vegetate for a couple of weeks after any drastic bending; this will allow them to recover from any shock before you place them into the flowering mode.

SUBJECT: **Going Outdoors**
FROM: **Red Neck Kung Fu**

What's the earliest part of the year that I can leave my plants outside?

Dear Red,
The answer depends on the region (or zone) in which you live. Generally, plants can go outside after the threat of frost is gone. In most places, that's usually around April or May, but in some colder regions it could be as late as June. You can also extend the time your plants can be outside by using a greenhouse to trap heat.

One important thing you can do is to acclimate your plants to the amount of light they'll be getting from the sun by putting them outside for just a few hours for the first week, and then slowly adding more hours to their outdoor time. This will help you to avoid shocking your indoor plants with too much strong sunlight all at once.

SUBJECT: **Growroom Evaluation**
FROM: **Ryan M.**

I'm growing six plants under 200-watt fluorescent bulbs, and they're about five weeks into the vegetative stage. I keep my room at 69°F to 70°F. I use a ceiling fan and a six-inch oscillating fan. I have the plants on a 24/0-hour light schedule to promote

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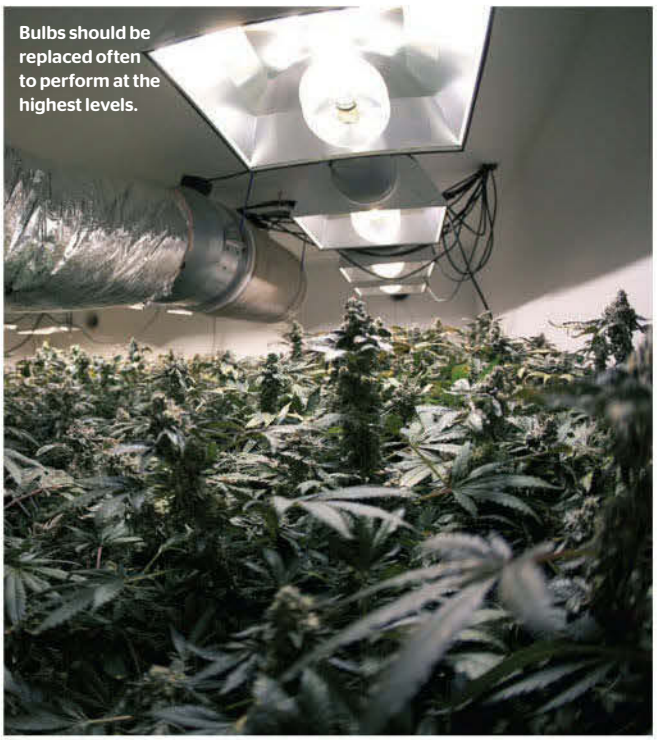
Danko Tip: Always cure your buds in opaque glass jars kept in a cool dark place.

faster vegetative growth. I water them with a spray bottle twice a day and feed them with Miracle-Gro plant food every 10 days or so. For my flowering area, I have a single 1,000w high-pressure sodium (HPS) light. My question is: About how many weeks would you recommend that I veg my plants before switching to 12/12 hours and the HPS for flowering? Also, does the way I have my room set up sound right? (This is my first grow.) Thanks!

Dear Ryan,
First off, I would change the vegetative cycle from 24/0 to 20 hours on and four off. This will allow your plants a "rest" period during which they can use up the energy they're storing during the day for leaf and branch growth.

Also, ditch the Miracle-Gro in favor of more natural nutrients specific to the needs of your plants, such as Earth Juice, Organicare or FoxFarm. For even better results, try the veganic nutrients from Vegamatrix. You also might want to water using more than just a spray bottle, since it sounds like you're only foliar-feeding the plant and not getting nutrient solution to the roots.

As for vegetative time, the five weeks you've already vegged should be enough for decent-sized plants. Factor in a week of vegetative growth for every gallon of medium you're using per plant, so that a 5-gallon bucket would get five weeks of veg before you switch to the 12/12-hour flowering cycle.



Bulbs should be replaced often to perform at the highest levels.

SUBJECT: **Replace Bulbs**
FROM: **Onstar in Lake Tahoe**

We have a garden that we've done a few harvests in already. However, it's now taking longer than eight weeks for the buds to ripen. I was wondering if the light we have in the flower room is getting old—would that cause the growth rate to slow down?

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Danko Tip: The humidity in your growroom should be around 50% for optimum growth.

Dear Onstar,
If the strain you're growing now is the same one you grew in the past, then it's likely that your bulb needs replacing. High-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs such as high-pressure sodium (HPS) and metal halide (MH) need to be replaced approximately every year in order to perform at optimum levels. Worn-out bulbs will still emit light, but at diminished levels—and since replacement bulbs are fairly affordable, it's basically a no-brainer to replace them when necessary for more light and bigger, quicker yields.


Regular seeds must be germinated to determine their sex.

SUBJECT: **Sex From Seeds**
FROM: **Strange Land**

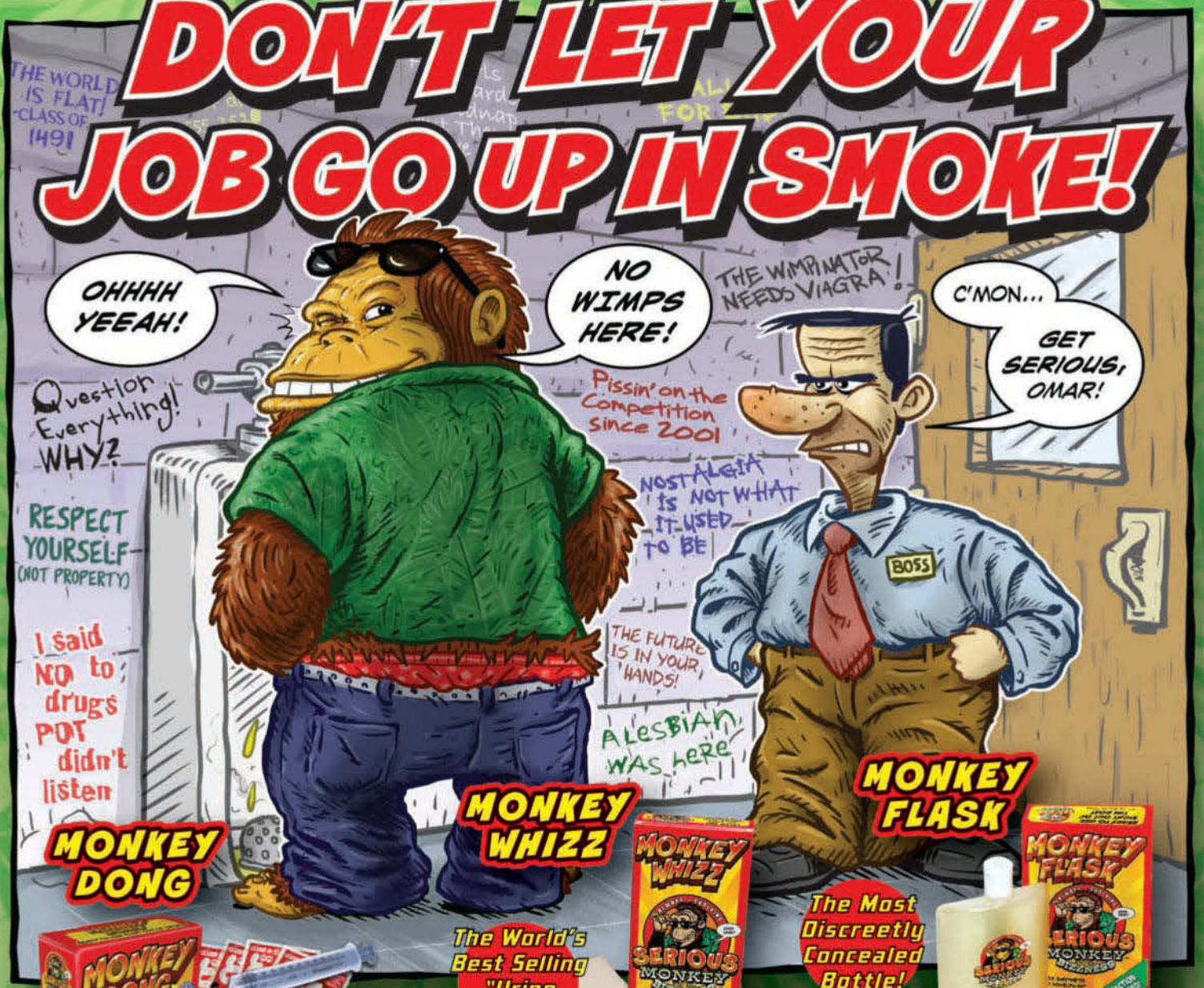
Hi, I have a question about seeds: Can you tell whether a plant will be male or female by the look, color or even size of the seeds? I was told to put them in a wet paper towel, close it up, and put them in a dark place for a couple days to see if the seeds will start; then you can tell if they're male or female that way. Sorry if I sound like an idiot, but I'm just learning!

Dear Strange,
It's not possible to tell the sex of a plant just by looking at the seed; you have to grow the plant out to determine whether it's a male or a female. After the third or fourth set of leaves develops, you should be able to see pre-flowers forming at the nodes (the space where the leaves meet the main stalk of your plant). Female pre-flowers look like upside-down teardrops with a white hair sticking out, while male pre-flowers resemble tiny spikes pointing upward from the node.

If you can't determine the sex from the pre-flowers, you can wait until a couple of weeks after you change the plant's light cycle to 12 hours on/12 hours off to induce the flowering stage, at which point the flowers will be more pronounced. Just be sure to get rid of the male plants, whose flowers look like tiny yellow bunches of bananas, before they're able to release their pollen and seed your crop.

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Can cannabidiol help build strong bones?

Humorous Humerus

Hi H.H.,
Sort of. In an experiment that would have animal-rights activists understandably up in—um—arms, researchers fractured the thighbones of lab rats. Those that received big doses of cannabidiol (CBD) during the six-week healing process ended up with stronger bones. (THC didn't work the same way.) We're still a long way from providing high-CBDs strains like Harlequin in hospitals, but what a start!

Does cannabis protect against diabetes?

Sweet T.

Hi Sweet,
Recent users are 40 percent less likely to be diabetic than folks who say they've never used the plant, but that's only an association. Maybe cannabis *is* protective; maybe people with unusual blood sugar just don't like to use it. Nevertheless, one experiment did show that CBD made mice less likely to develop diabetes, so this idea is bound to generate more research.

Is the plant's effect on brain injuries impactful or slight?

Buzz Skywalker

Hi Buzz,
In one study of head-injured patients, those who tested positive for THC were less likely to die. That's about as big an impact as can be made!



Your "freak flag" may test positive.

Help! I haven't had a toke in four months, but my hair tests are still positive.

Harry Epting

Hi Harry,
Hair tests are not like blood or urine screens. Blood will often test completely negative within a week or two, and regular users can usually pass a urine screen after one to three months of abstinence. Hair, on the other hand, can stay positive for as much as half a year. So longhaired friends, be warned: The hair you grew six months ago still contains metabolites from that time—and if you shave your head, most companies will simply take hair from somewhere else. Research is scarce about how to cheat this test, but perms and bleach have led to false negatives.

Sorry this answer is such a drag—when prohibition ends, we'll be done with this nonsense.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine is a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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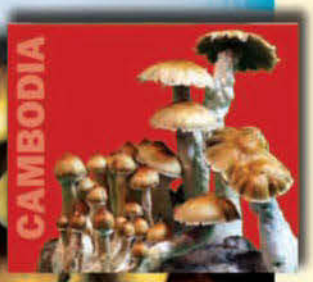
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Know Your Solvents!

The pros and cons of the most commonly used solvents for making hash. *By Craig Coffey*



Gold Coast Extracts used butane to make Tangie #17, winner of best *Sativa* Concentrate in Denver.

Most dab lovers know the basics of how concentrates are made. For the uninitiated, here's a simple overview of the process: Cannabis is soaked in a solvent, which dissolves the cannabinoids and terpenes; then the solvent is evaporated, and what's left behind is a concentrated form of the active ingredients in cannabis.

When it comes to dissolving THC, it's all about polarity—or, to be more precise, non-polarity. A solvent's polarity refers to the charge that its molecules carry. Polar solvents, such as water, have an electrical charge due to the arrangement of atoms that make up its molecules. Polarity is the reason that oil and water will not mix into a solution. Cannabinoids, on the other hand, will dissolve into any non-polar solvent, including the following:

Butane

Butane is the most common solvent used in making hash, because it's excellent at capturing cannabinoids and terpenes and is easily purged from the final product. Butane is also cheap, non-toxic and fairly easy to obtain. The one big drawback: It carries an extremely high risk of explosion. Extract amateurs should not cut their teeth making butane hash oil.

CO_2

Carbon dioxide is non-explosive and will dissolve THC and other cannabinoids when in supercritical form (i.e., under so much pressure that the gas becomes a liquid). However, the equipment needed to make CO_2 supercritical is very expensive and takes some training to operate safely.

Propane

Propane is a very good solvent for making hash and does a great job of capturing terpenes. The big problem with propane is that it's almost always odorized to allow you to smell leaks. If you're making hash with propane, you'll have to find a source for the non-odorized stuff.

Hexane

Hexane is commonly used for making pharmaceuticals and food products. It's similar to butane, but harder to get and more expensive. When working with hexane, you must take all the same precautions that you would for butane because, in gas form, it will easily ignite and explode.

Ether

Ether is the king of solvents and the solvent of choice for most pharmaceutical production. The downside to this über-solvent is the extreme danger in working with it: Ether can auto-ignite at relatively low temperatures, meaning it can explode without a spark.

Isopropanol

This solvent is cheap and easy to obtain, and it's commonly used as a secondary solvent in conjunction with some of the others on this list. The yields from isopropanol hash are pretty low, but compared to most of the other solvent options here, it is very safe to work with.

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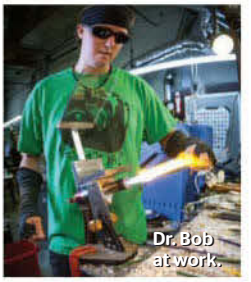




#TeamBob

A beloved glassblower from Las Vegas fights for his life.

Of all the maladies out there, few are as terrifying as brain tumors. They often go undiagnosed until late in the game and are notoriously dangerous and invasive to treat. Such is the case with a glassblower named Bob Dillingham, better known to the cannabis community as Dr. Bobalicious.


Dr. Bob at work.

The cousin of Creative Artisans/Dopeass Glass owner Phat Jack, Bob is a beloved figure on the Las Vegas glass scene and a dear friend of my wife April. Years ago, when she was living in Vegas, Bob was one of the few friends who was there for her during some rough times—keeping her company when her power was shut off, and helping her pack when she moved to New York. Each March, he'd drive out to Austin to hang with us at the Doobie Awards, and in 2010 he even designed the trophies (musical notes with cannabis leaves on them). When April and I got married in 2011, Bob flew in for the wedding and gave us a custom-made copper-fused chalice as a gift, from which we drank wine during the ceremony.

The last time I saw Bob was when we visited Vegas in August 2013. Over the course of a few hours (and as many beers) down on Fremont Street, I got to know him in a way I hadn't before. His shyness melted away, and his dry sense of humor emerged—and I realized why April cared for him so much.

Shortly after that visit, we found out about Bob's condition. After suffering from headaches, he went to the doctor and learned that he had a massive tumor growing on his brain stem. There were so many nerves and veins running through and around the tumor that doctors were afraid they might not be able to remove it. Bob's family consulted top specialists in the field, including Dr. Neil Martin at the Ronald Reagan Medical Center at UCLA (the most advanced brain center in the country), who admitted it was the worst tumor he'd ever encountered. On October 16—one day after his 30th birthday—Bob went through a 13-hour surgery to have it removed. The operation was mostly successful, but since then it's been one challenge and complication after another. Back and forth from Vegas to LA and hospital to hospital, in and out of consciousness, numerous fluid drains, inserting and removing shunts, pneumonia and a dozen different surgeries. Through it all, Bob has remained somewhat responsive, but unable to speak or move much more than his fingers and eyelids. His family and friends can tell that Bob's still in there, though, and they haven't left his side or given up hope.

To show support and raise money for his treatment and expenses, his family created the #TeamBob hashtag, Facebook group and *GoFundMe.com* account. As of press time, they've raised just over half of their $10,000 goal. To help, I designed a Team Bob logo—a figure blowing a rainbow-colored brain (Bob's Brainbow)—which has now been made into stickers, T-shirts, baseball caps and hatpins, all of which are being sold at cannabis trade shows like Champs and the Cannabis Cup.

Bob's ordeal has been unimaginable, and it's far from over—but with the love and support of his family and the cannabis community, we believe he will make it. If you'd like to help, you can donate at *gofundme.com/teambob-dillingham*, or purchase some Team Bob merch at the next Cup.

Hang in there, buddy—we're all rooting for you.



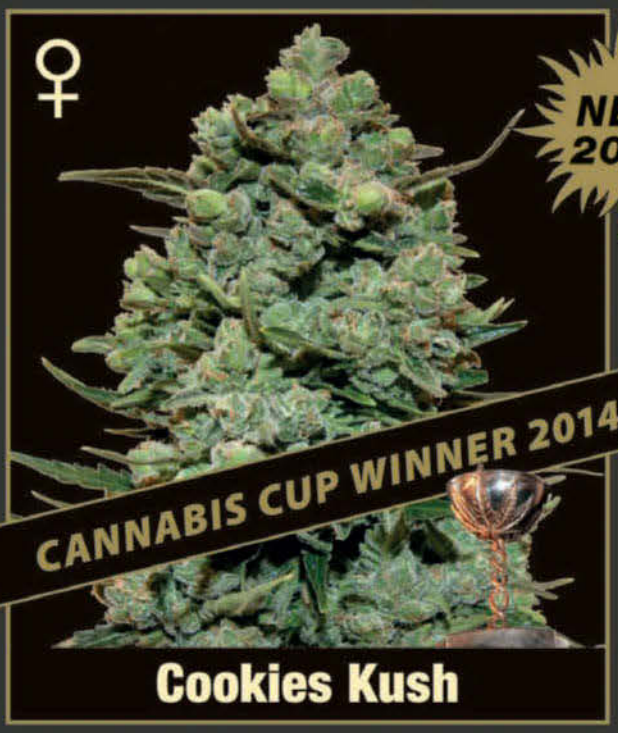
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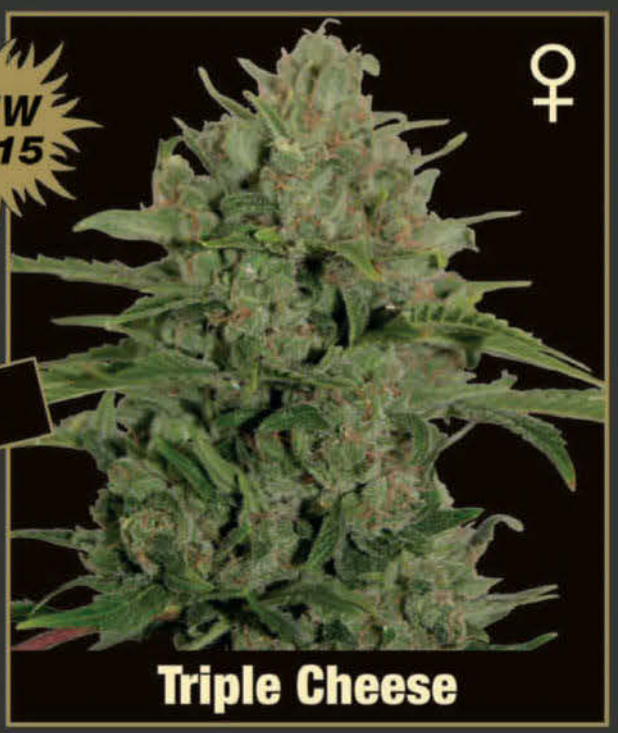
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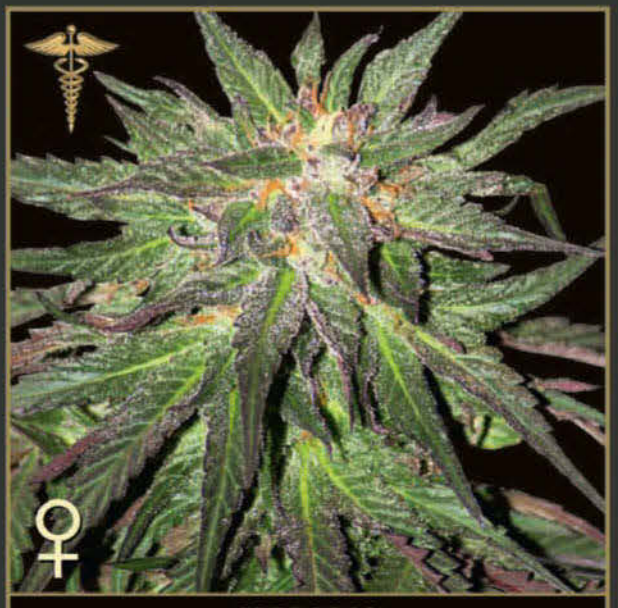
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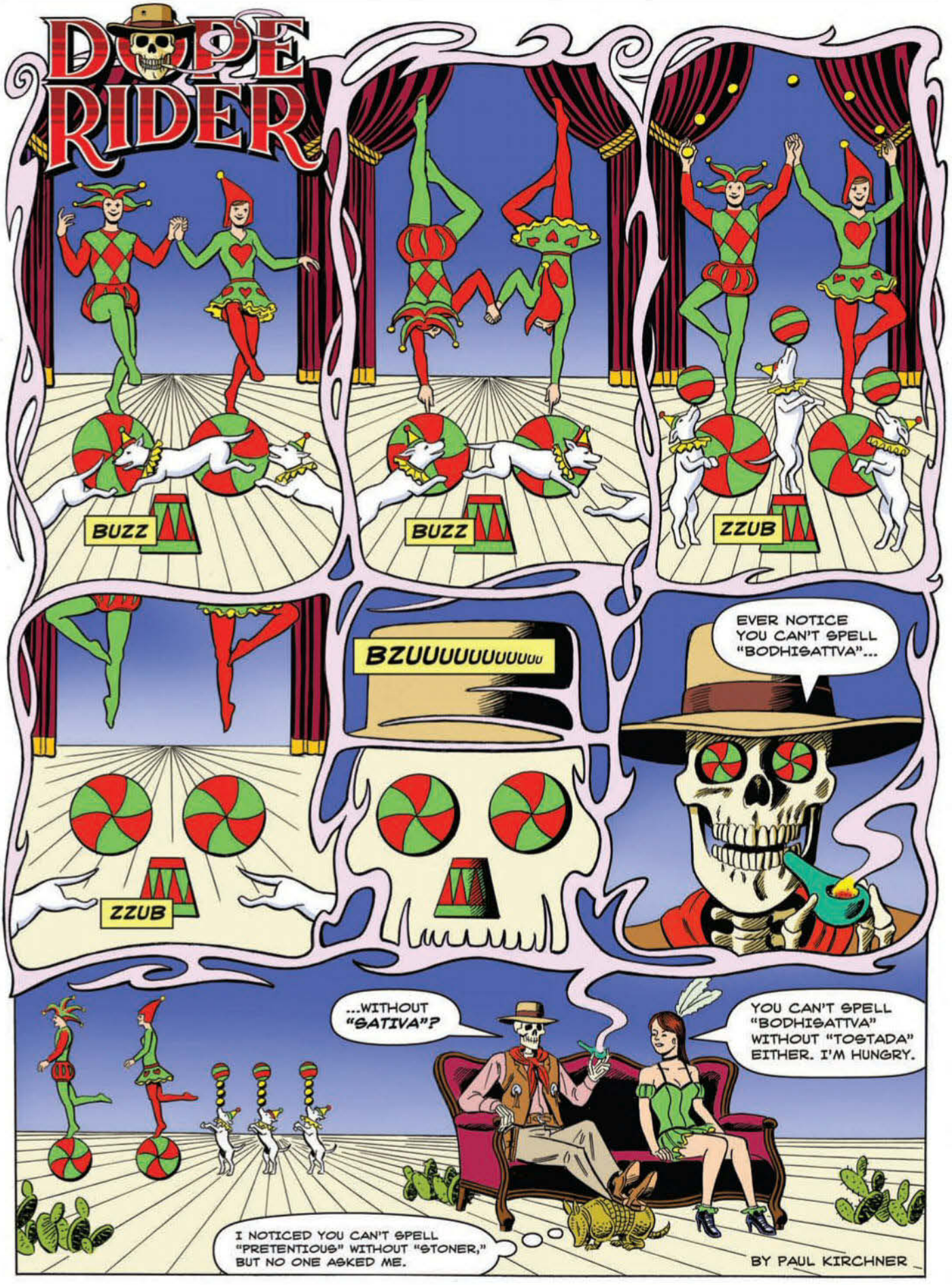


MEDICAL

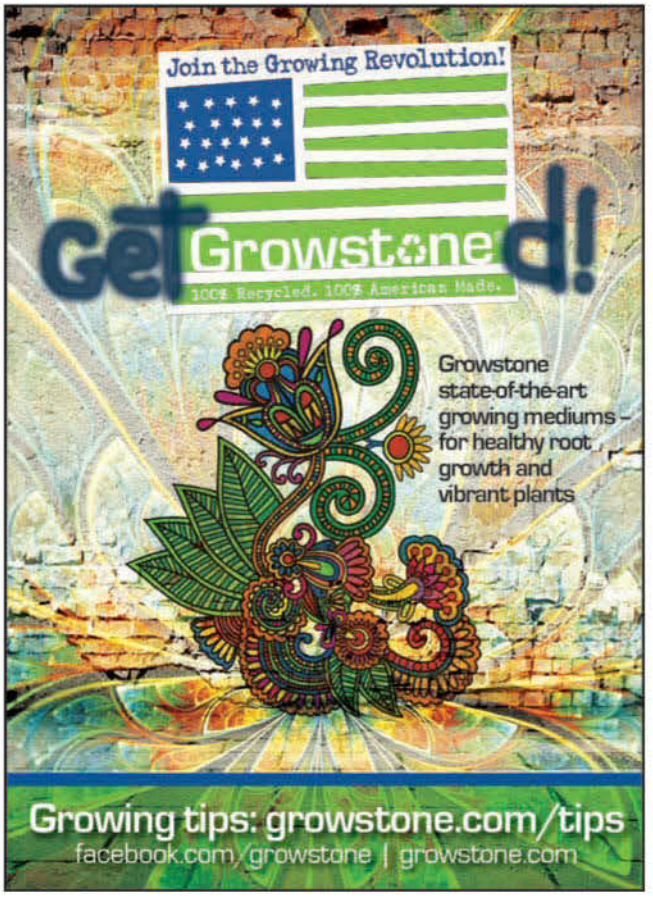
CBD Blue Shark

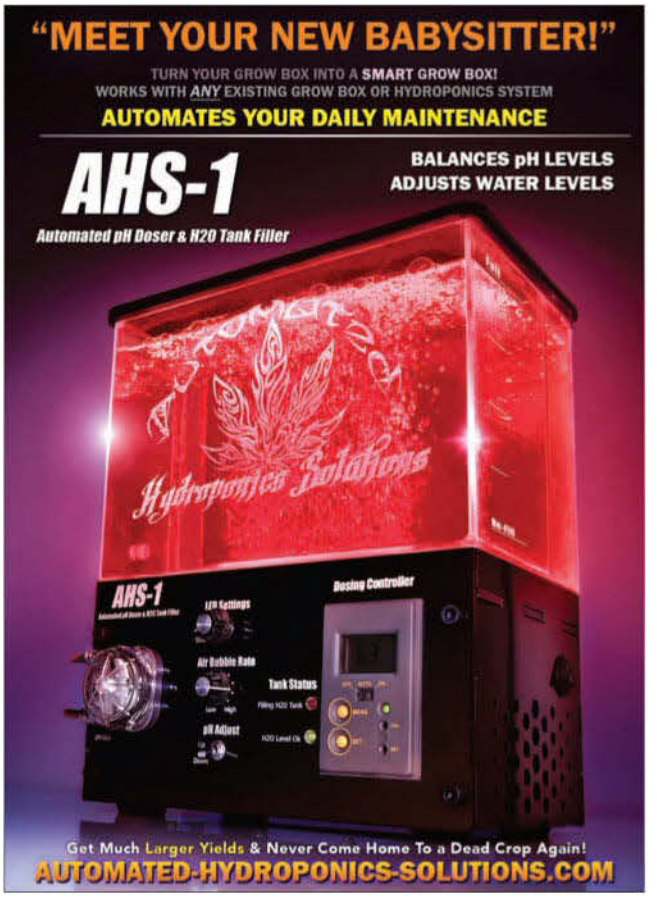
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Pot-Law Reform and the Police

Legalization has been forcing law enforcement to dispense with its obsolete tactics.

Allen St. Pierre is executive director of NORML. Visit ***norml.org***.

Cannabis prohibition is unwinding state by state. (Four down, 46 more to go!) Taxes from legal cannabis commerce are generating millions in revenue for state and local coffers. Opinion polls show increasing support for legalization, and more politicians than ever back marijuana-law reform. What might be easy to miss in all this good news is the dismantling of the anti-pot police.

Ever since Colorado and Washington State legalized cannabis in 2012—to be joined by Alaska and Oregon in 2014 (as well as Washington, DC, where voters depenalized possession and okayed small-scale home cultivation)—there have been many indications that law-enforcement agencies around the United States are abandoning their old anti-cannabis enforcement tactics.

The arrest rates for cannabis-related offenses in Colorado and Washington have plummeted post-legalization—down 90 percent in both states. Civil-asset forfeitures related to marijuana (a major source of police funding since the 1980s) have also declined dramatically in the states with legalization.

As a result, legalization is directly defunding law enforcement. There are fewer police helicopters searching for gardens, fewer "drug checkpoints" to freak motorists out. (In fact, law-enforcement officials in states that aren't so pot-friendly, like Idaho and Wyoming, now complain of difficulty recruiting from other western states because potential candidates would rather enjoy the ability to use cannabis legally!) Dogs once trained to sniff out your stash have now been reassigned. In Oregon, legislation has been introduced to expunge the criminal records of cannabis-related offenders, with other states sure to follow.



Pot busts are plummeting, but we're not free yet.

In San Francisco, medical cannabis clubs have recently been funding gun buy-back programs set up by the police. Yes—pot sellers are taking some of their proceeds and donating them to the cops, who then buy guns from the public and destroy them!

Wild... but it gets even better. Recently in Washington State, a bill was introduced that would require the police to sell any legally seized cannabis products (for example, pot that was produced outside of the state's cannabis commerce guidelines) at public auction to licensed retailers of cannabis.

Wow—the police selling cannabis to pot retailers, who will then sell it to pot consumers. Mind not blown enough yet? Then how about this: In early March, one week after depenalization went into effect in Washington, DC, a couple of narcotics officers who "didn't get the memo" confiscated a man's stash. Agitated by this lack of compliance, the man went to the police substation and asked for his weed back—and got it!

That's right: A stoner walked into a police station in the nation's capital and demanded the return of his pot, and the cops complied. Any brain cells left?

It's probably way too soon to start whistling past the graveyard of pot prohibition. But there are now encouraging signs that the police in America will one day be enforcing cannabis commerce and responsible-use compliance—not the failed laws of the War on Pot.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Kevin Mahmalji is NORML's national outreach and chapter coordinator.

Cates on the Case

NORML's new chapter in Nacogdoches, TX, spreads its activist wings.

Hailing from deep East Texas, Jared Cates—a 32-year-old father of one—has become the executive director of the newly formed NORML chapter in Nacogdoches. Though only a few months old, the chapter has already made big strides in spreading awareness about the benefits of legalization in East Texas.

Nac NORML has worked overtime to push cannabis-law reform in the state this legislative session. Jared and the other dedicated members and volunteers have been running a call campaign to contact state legislators regarding decriminalization and the issue of medical marijuana. Hundreds, if not thousands, of calls in support have been registered with reps across Texas.



While full legalization is Jared's ultimate goal, medical marijuana is a cause dear to his heart. Having witnessed his own mother suffer through breast cancer and chemo/radiation therapies, Jared vows to continue this fight until every patient in Texas has safe, legal access to medical cannabis. And having been arrested for possession at age 18, he already knows firsthand how damaging a marijuana arrest can be.

Nac NORML is looking toward the future, working with larger chapters like Dallas/Fort Worth to host even more comprehensive events in Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas. As Jared says: "We want to increase our public presence at local sports and music events, and maintain positive relationships with our representatives, to help bring real change to Texas's inhumane drug laws."

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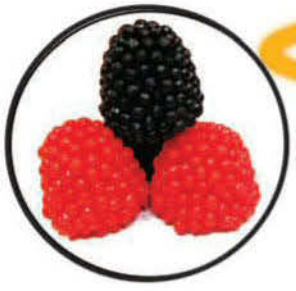
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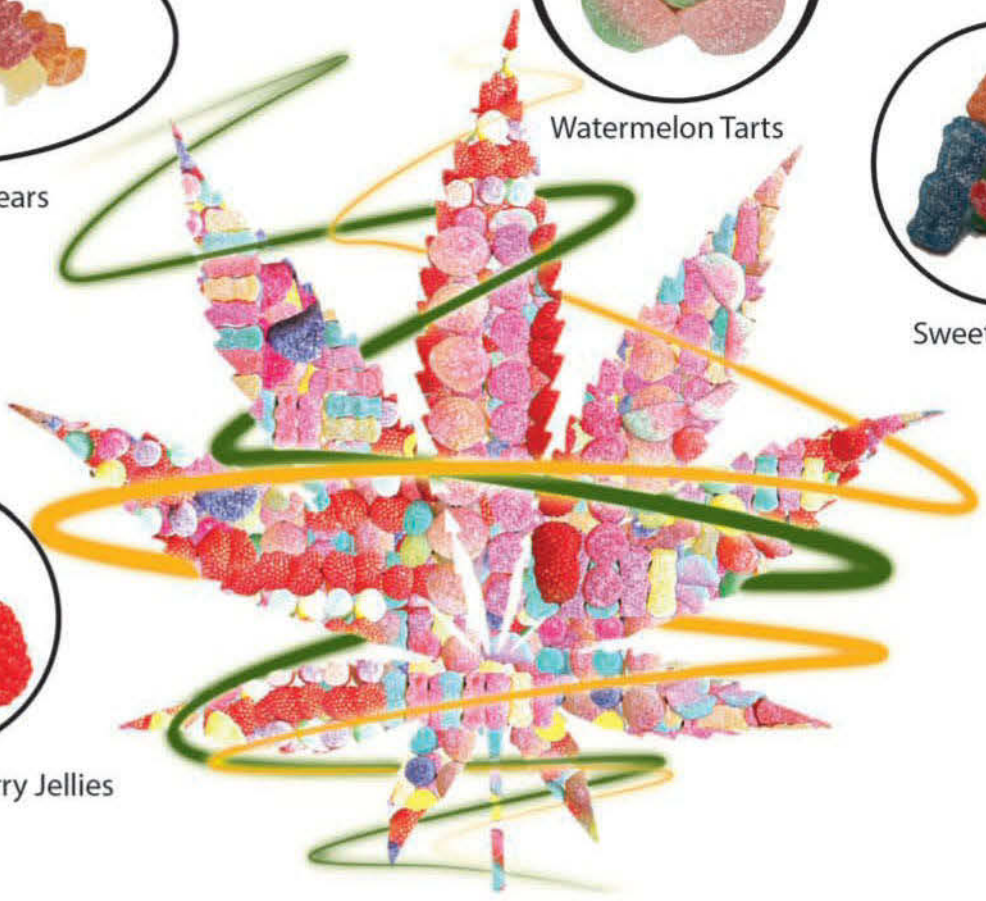
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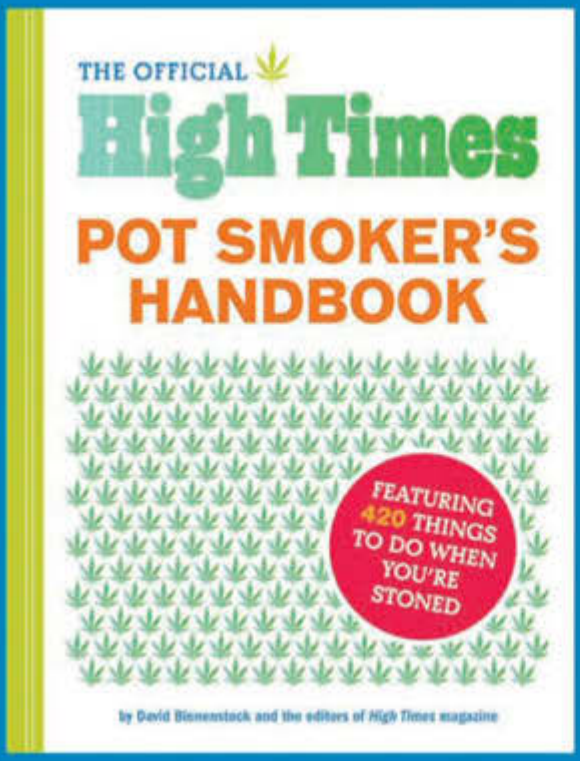
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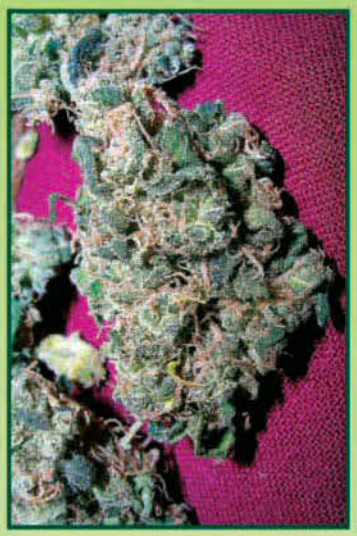


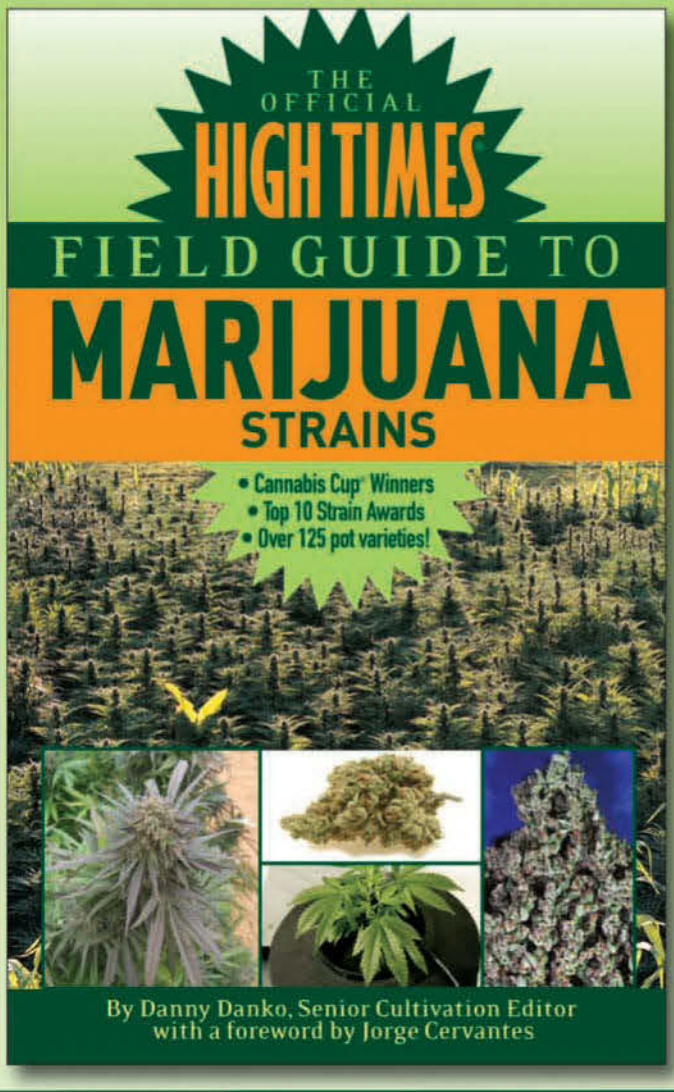
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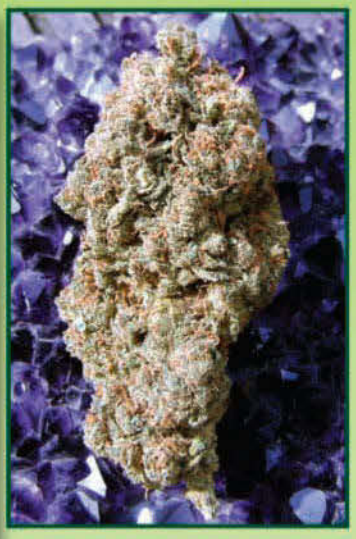
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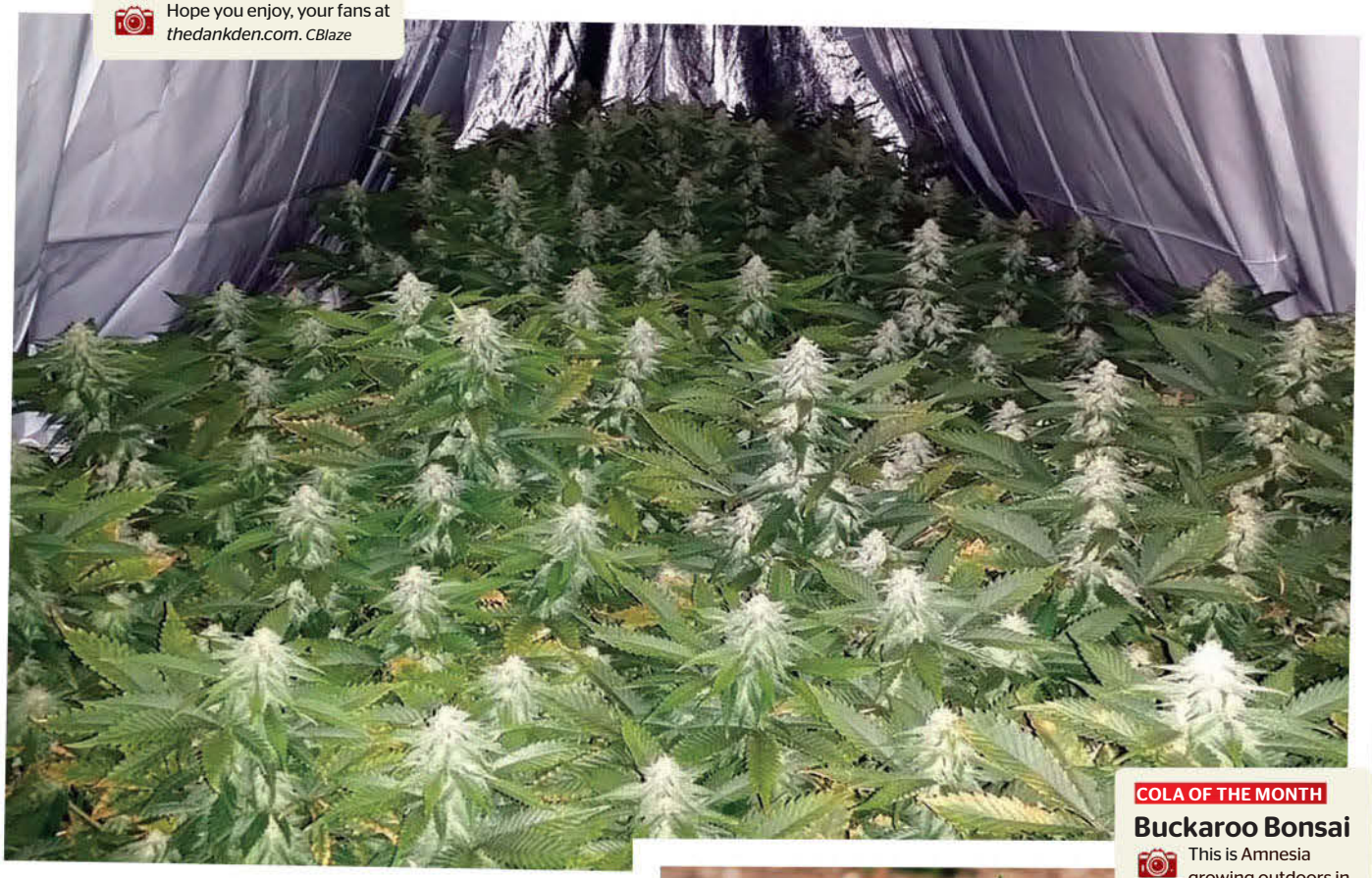
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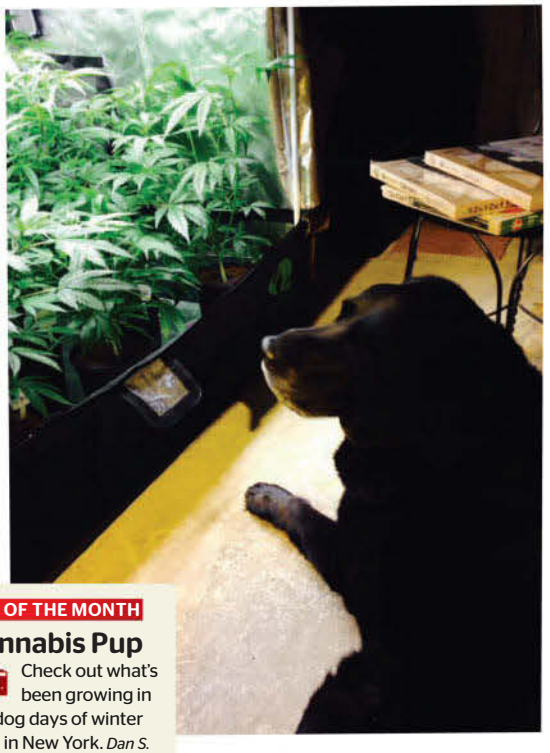
This is Amnesia growing outdoors in Old Bar, New South Wales, Australia. *Occy*



PET OF THE MONTH

Cannabis Pup

Check out what's been growing in the dog days of winter here in New York. *Dan S.*




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Grow Gear of the Year

Check out our Cultivation Department's picks for the best pot-farming equipment of 2015. Find affordable ways to increase your harvest with the amazing technologies powering the nationwide boom in ganja growing.

Jorge Cervantes on Clones and Cloning

Our longtime cultivation guru returns with another installment from his new grow bible, *The Cannabis Encyclopedia*. Jorge focuses on the production of marijuana clones, from mother-plant maintenance and cuttings to rooting hormones and the best techniques for successful propagation.

Boots on the Ground

While serving in Afghanistan, US soldiers discovered the country's rich cannabis heritage. A combat vet reveals how pot helped him and his brothers in arms deal with the stress of war.

A Smuggler's Tale

George Jung—played by Johnny Depp in the movie *Blow*—is perhaps the most famous drug smuggler America has ever produced. Sordid affairs editor Chris Simunek caught up with Jung shortly after he finished a 20-year sentence in federal prison.

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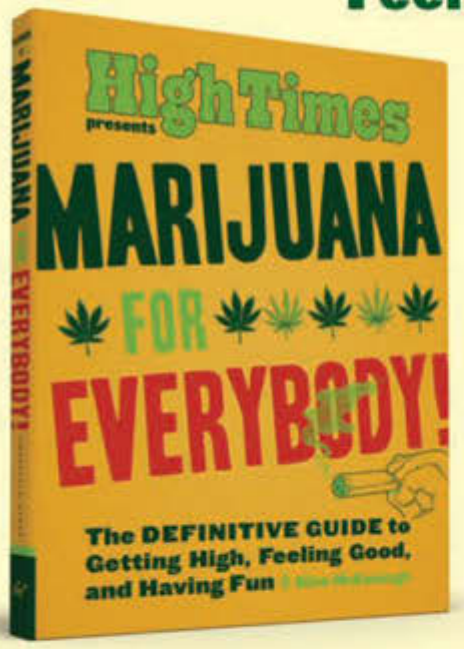
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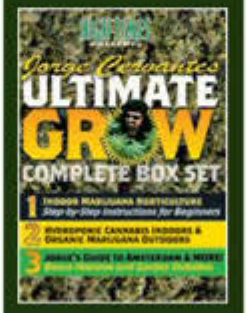


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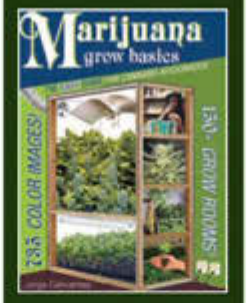
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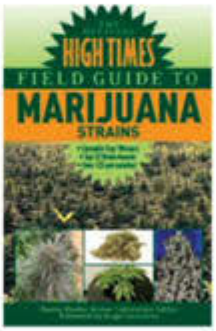


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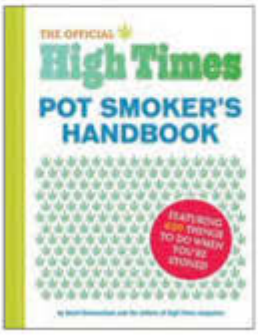
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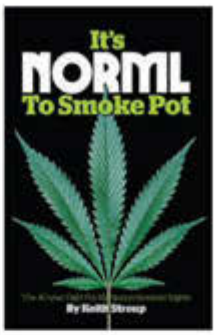
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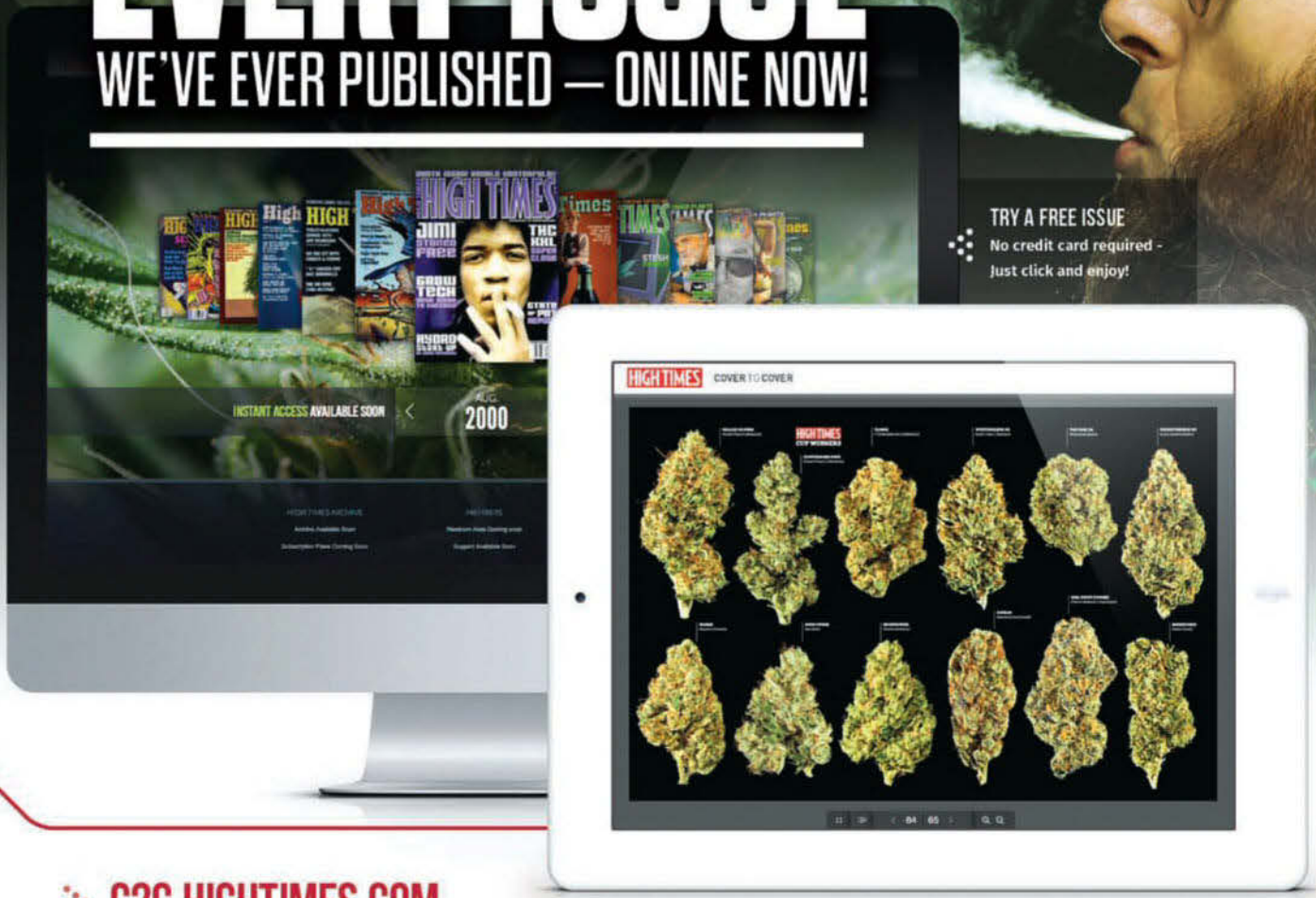
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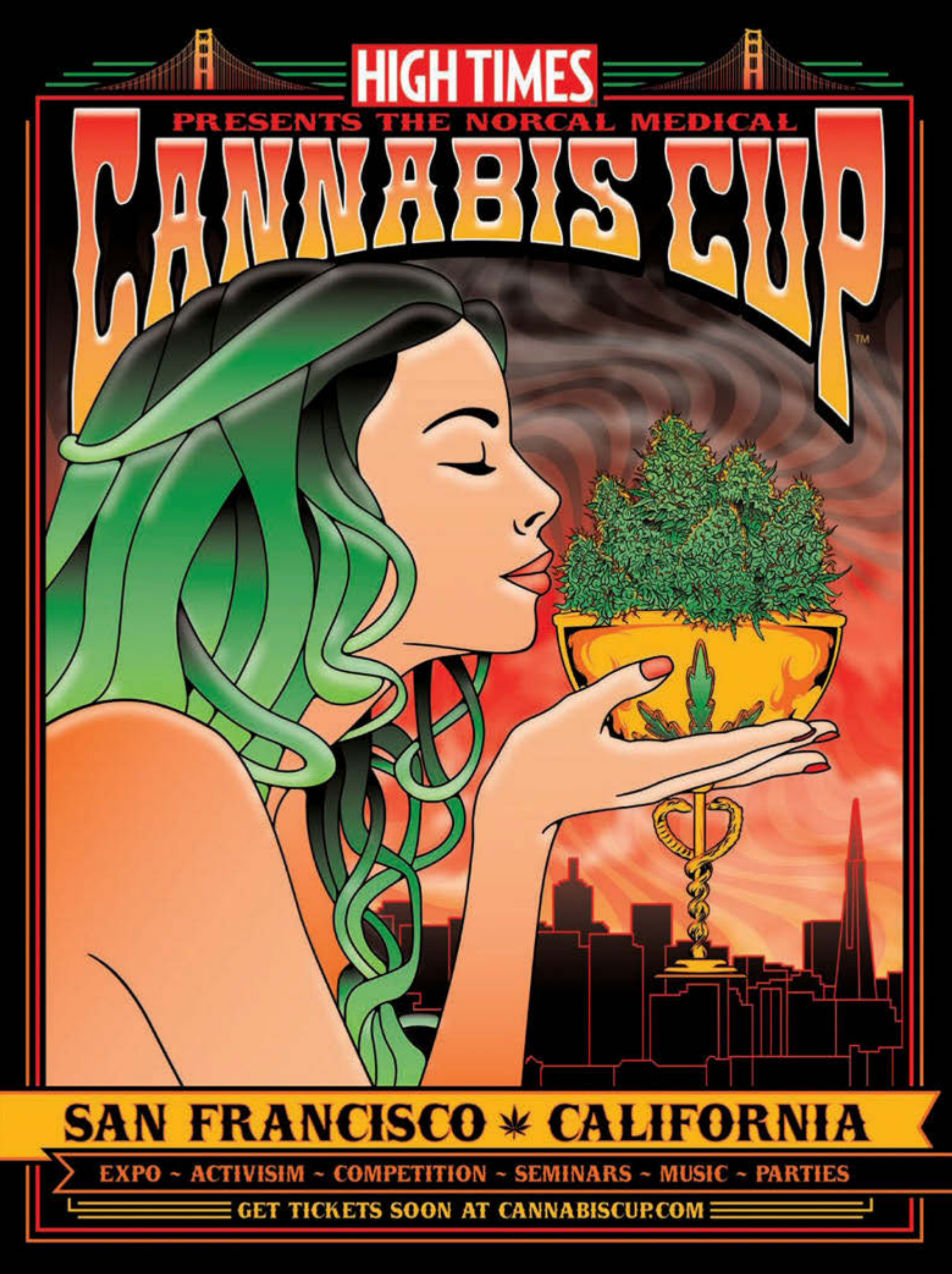
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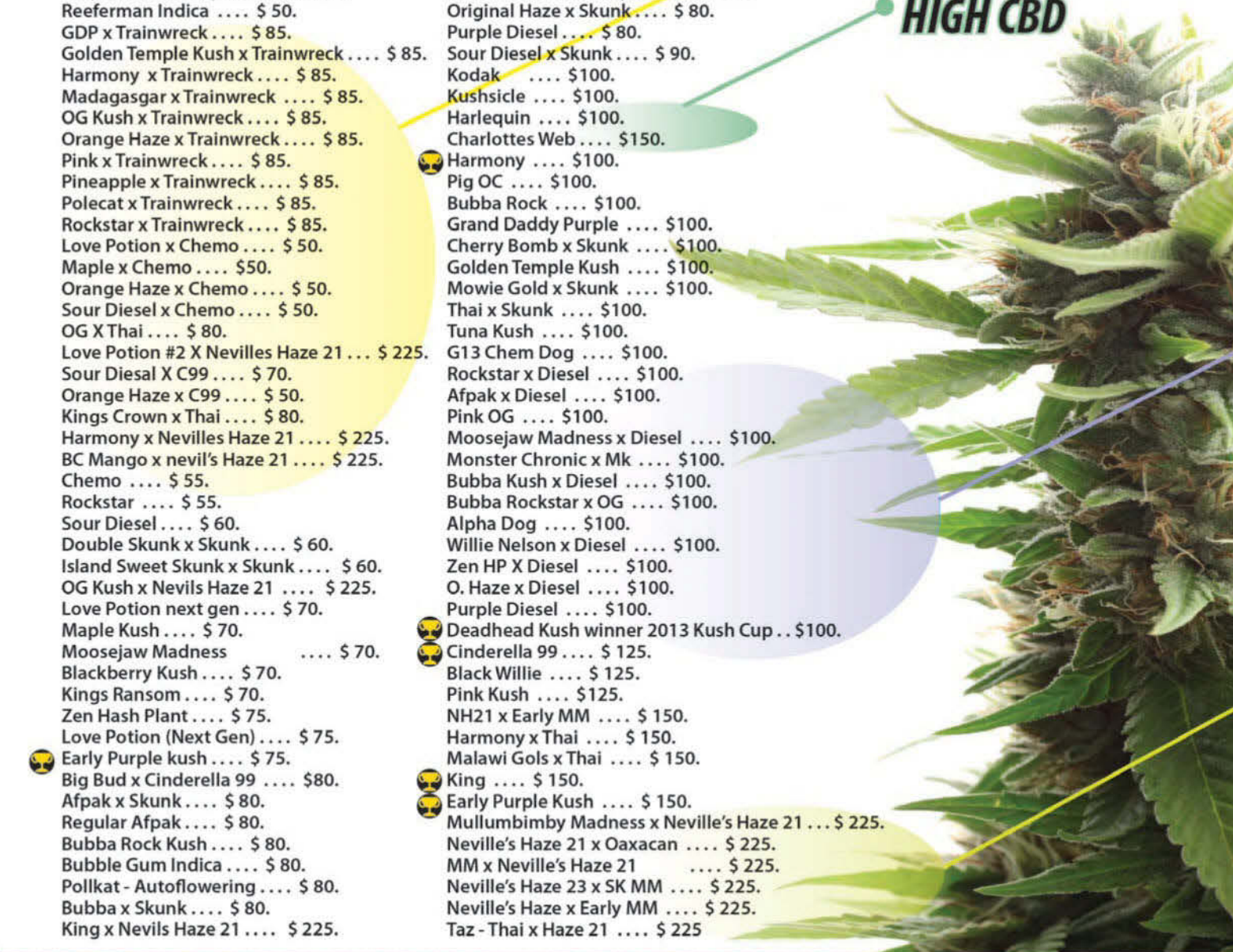
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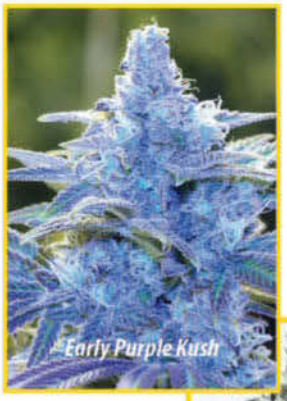
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